

Egypt's decidedly mixed bag
21 convicted men freed from
prison, but may face new trial.
page 15

Gay synagogue turns 25
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
offers much for its members.
page 12



Goode at myth-making
Joe Goode Performance Group's
'Mythic, Montana' at YBC.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Pallotta Teamworks faces double trouble in D.C.

by Bob Roehr

Pallotta Teamworks, profit-making producers of a series of AIDS Rides and other fundraising events, has suffered a double blow in Washington, D.C. Local sponsoring AIDS organizations are withdrawing from next year's ride, and the company has been slapped with a \$10 million wrongful death lawsuit by the family of a rider who died during the 2000 ride.

Whitman-Walker Clinic and Food and Friends have been the local non-profit partners of Pallotta Teamworks on AIDS Rides for the last seven years. Some \$14 million has been raised for local AIDS service organizations in the process. But the June 13-16 ride from Norfolk, Virginia to Washington, D.C. will be the last one.

The three organizations announced an amicable parting of the ways in a May 31 news release. Food and Friends will continue to produce a local bicycle event without the clinic's participation. Pallotta Teamworks has agreed not to produce a competing event.

That decision was perhaps influenced by Pallotta's experience in California where the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center dropped the company and produced their own fundraising ride, while the company recruited several new nonprofit partners for the California AIDS Ride. The bitter public feud resulted in many riders shunning both events. SFAF and the L.A. center won a court fight to hold their LifeCycle ride, which took place last month.

Pallotta's California AIDS Ride left San Francisco Sunday, June 2 and riders are en route to Los Angeles.

Many have harshly criticized Pallotta for its high costs of fundraising that often returns less than half of each dollar raised to the charities in whose name it is raised. As a private company, Pallotta Teamworks does not reveal its expenses, profits, or other financial matters.

In March, the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, led by famed researcher Dr. David Ho, withdrew from participating in a Pallotta vaccine ride because it felt that expenses were too high.

The Better Business Bureau says that the cost of fundraising should not exceed 35 percent of the total raised. An organization called AIDS Community Donor Action (www.aidscommunitydonoraction.org) has been pushing the case against Pallotta in a series of ads in the *Washington Blade* and other community newspapers.

Michael Cover, spokesman for Whitman-Walker Clinic, said their

page 17 ►



Jane Philomena Orlend

KQED celebrates Pride
KQED Public Broadcasting (channel 9) was one of the Bay Area's largest sponsors of LGBT Pride. On June 1, the station received a GLAAD Media Award and on Monday, June 3, station executives honored local leaders at the LGBT Community Center. From left: Harvey Nyder, of Lesbians in the Visual Arts; Jaron Kasper, of the Youth Gender Project; Doreen Samuels, of the LGBT Center; KQED senior vice president and chief operating officer, Joanne Balaban; Penny Nixon, of Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco; Robert Kasper, of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project; and Rami Burns, of Gay American Indians.

LGBT 'crips' launch their own movement for gay rights

by Matthew S. Bajko

Many times, they are the forgotten members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. While they may be out of the closet, queer disabled people are often left out of the equation.

Misperceived as being nonsexual, disabled queers say they oftentimes have to deal with people who find it incomprehensible for someone who is a "crip" to also be gay. Such stereotyping relegates queer crips to the sidelines of the LGBT community, said Ellen Samuels, a queer disabled University of California, Berkeley student.

"If being queer is about sex and being disabled is seen as nonsexual, then people ask how can you even be queer? It is a big problem," said Samuels.

For this emerging group of out and loud queers, just taking part in the larger LGBT community presents unique challenges.

Gathering at a gay bar oftentimes is not possible.

Circuit parties are unimaginable.

Even gay coffee shops or bookstores are often inaccessible.

"I am very affected by chemicals and scented products. I don't have access to buildings and people very often because the chemicals make me very ill," explained Laurie McKiernan, a queer disabled performance artist from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

McKiernan, who suffers from multiple chemical sensitivity and fibromyalgia, is prevented from going into most gay bars due to the smoke and perfume lingering in the air.

Apart from a cane she uses at times, McKiernan said most people don't know of her disability until she tells them.

"I have a non-apparent disability so other people don't necessarily know about that. The invisibility is a lot like being in a closet," she said.

Oakland resident Ray Aguilera, an openly gay man who has cerebral palsy, also does not frequent many gay bars. While he does not have the same access issues as friends who use wheelchairs, Aguilera still has trouble maneuvering through the bars and clubs.

"A lot of gay bars are dark and have steps. I end up falling down them inevitably. It is not the most welcoming environment," explained Aguilera, a 26-year-old graduate student at San Francisco State University. "In my experience, the people I tend to surround myself with are very accepting. But in a gay bar with a more pick-up situation, most people ignore me."

To combat the cold shoulder treatment, disabled queers have launched a new movement to fight for equal access to the LGBT community they so often observe from the sidelines. Through the Internet, queer crips are fostering their own international community.

On Web sites like www.disabledwomen.net/queer or www.bentvoices.org, an online journal of crip gay voices, they are meeting and connecting. Aguilera, who has had his writing published on Bent, even found his current boyfriend, who is not disabled, online.

And they are mobilizing offline as well.

page 8 ►

'Sleeping lawyer' case refused by Supreme Court

Gay man sentenced to death likely will get new trial

by Zak Szymanski

One of the most famous death penalty appeals in recent history ended with a victory on Monday, June 3, when the United States Supreme Court refused to hear a case against a gay man on death row whose lawyer slept through significant portions of his trial.

In what is now known as the "sleeping lawyer" case, Calvin Burdine was sentenced to die for the murder of his ex-lover W.T. "Dub" Wise, who was robbed and stabbed in Houston, Texas, in 1983. Although another man, Douglas McCreight, pleaded guilty to the murder, McCreight was released after eight years in prison.


In court, Burdine's sexual orientation was used as justification for execution, because, as the prosecution stated, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do." These words and other homophobic statements were not challenged by Burdine's snoozing lawyer, Joe Frank Cannon, who also referred to his own client as a "queer" and "fairy" during his arguments. Cannon died in 1998.

But the legal issue in question was not

page 15 ►

INSIDE

BAR Talk	44
Classifieds	19
Lavender Tube	35
Lesbian Notions	8
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	42
Obituaries	17
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	26
Out & About	36
Past Out	10
Personals	45
Sports Complex	18



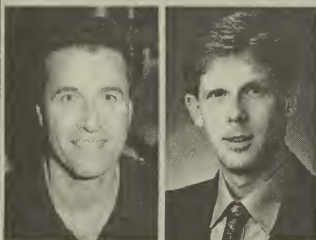
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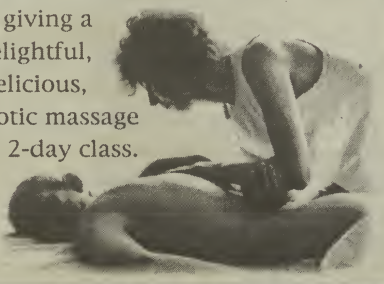
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Supes divided on Yee's plan to split school district

by Joe Dignan

John Ho said he saw the computer-addressed envelope from the San Francisco Unified School District on the living room coffee table when he got back to the Sunset District home he shares with his eighth grade son, Les.

According to Ho, it was a weekday in March, about 6 p.m., and he had driven back from Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, where he works as a maintenance man.

Ho, a single parent born in Hong Kong, with limited English, had, several months earlier, applied for Les to attend Lincoln High School next year — eight blocks away and one of the best high schools in the district. Les had been rejected.

Instead, Les had been assigned to his third choice, Galileo High School, at the foot of Russian Hill — across the city, and about an hour by bus, from his 25th Avenue home.

So Ho had appealed. The letter he got that evening was the district's response.

Ho read the form letter again, "Congratulations. The SFUSD and appeals committee is pleased to inform you that your child has been approved to attend Galileo High School for the 2002-3 school year."

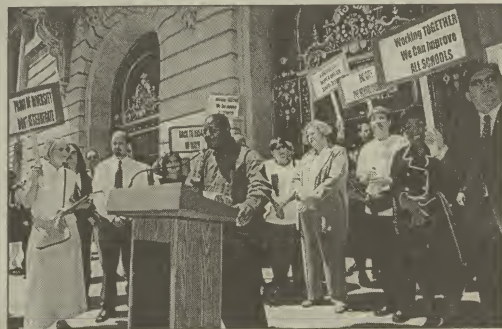
"I was so upset and angry," Ho said. "Nobody even bothered to look at my appeal."

Ho related his story, along with about 50 other people, at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services Committee last Thursday, May 30. The hearing was to discuss a demand, by Supervisor Leland Yee, that the district provide adequate space in neighborhood schools.

Because four of five top high schools and all 10 of the top elementary schools are in the Richmond and Sunset, parents from all over the city want their children to attend classes there.

Lincoln High School, where Les had applied, is one of the most over-subscribed. Lincoln had, according to school district statistics, 2,500 applications for 850 spots in its ninth grade this year. Lincoln accepted about 680 ninth graders from the area near the school, but Les was one of 450 neighbors who didn't get in, rejected in part to make room for 175 kids from elsewhere in the city.

Yee, who represents the Sunset District on the board, had asked



Supporters of a unified school district spoke at a City Hall rally.

the city attorney to explore the possibility of dividing San Francisco's unified school district in two.

At the hearing, his suggestion provoked a storm of reactions from school administrators, the Parent Teachers Association, and other parents. Some accused Yee of racism.

Supervisor Mark Leno put a competing resolution on the committee's agenda that supported keeping the district together. Leno said that the school district is required to achieve racial integration, under the terms of a 1978 consent decree, so it has to bring students to the primarily white and Asian Richmond and Sunset districts from elsewhere in the city. "We're not going to be able to meet the court order and have 100 percent placements in a neighborhood school," Leno said.

Leno was joined by four other supervisors, including board President Tom Ammannio, who called Yee's idea "ludicrous." Ammannio cited his concern that gay and lesbian programs "that we worked very hard to get going in the school district" would be gutted in a split.

Alexis Beach, a Mission District resident and lesbian mother of two, said her oldest son is enrolled at Alvarado School. "If you chop the city in half," Beach said, "you really are saying that diversity is not important to you. You're making this iron wall that separates us from them, and that's wrong."

Ho said he started calling the school district about Les's appeal to get into Lincoln the day after he got the letter.

"I got a tape recorder," Ho said. "I called again. I called three times. They said they would get back to me, but they never did."

A week later, Ho took the after-

noon off work and went to the district's educational placement center on Franklin Street.

"The room was so full of people. I had to take a number and wait about half an hour," Ho said. When his turn to talk to a counselor came up, he said he got about 10 minutes.

"The counselor said there's nothing he can do. 'You have to talk to a higher school official — like the superintendent,'" Ho said.

That's what some parents did. On May 16, Yee arranged a meeting with district Superintendent Arlene Ackerman to protest the district's admissions policies. Jane Kwong, a volunteer for Yee's Assembly bid, organized a group of parents to go. Ultimately, according to Kwong, all the kids of the parents who attended the meeting, except one who had applied to Lincoln, "were assigned to the school they wanted," Kwong said.

Ho's son, Les, is still assigned to Galileo.

"There is a problem with the SFUSD. Lots of Asian families don't speak English. They get the runaround," Kwong said. "These parents don't know where to turn for help."

Ackerman admitted at the hearing, explaining computer problems and isolated errors, that, "Our enrollment process was not perfect, but balancing diversity and parent choice is no easy feat."

In spite of Yee's charges that the school system is "clearly unresponsive," the district does not think major structural changes to the assignment process are needed. San Francisco Board of Education President Jill Wynn said, "Are we going to change the system? It's not in our plan. We think we're moving in the right direction." ▼

Queer women's arts exhibit opens tonight

by Zak Szymanski

Boys wearing Pride colors aren't the only things hot and pink this summer; tonight (Thursday, June 6) marks the opening of "Hot Pink: Work by Queer Women Artists," to be launched with a reception at the GLBT Historical Society.

The show is sponsored by Lesbians in the Visual Arts and features work by more than two dozen artists, from a pop-art painting of an erect nipple about to be sucked to whips made of re-used rubber to a triptych sculpture of severed body parts. The artists hail from all over the country but are primarily from the Bay Area. The show is curated by artists Re-

becca McBride and Dorian Katz.

Tonight's reception is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and is located at the historical society, 973 Market Street, Suite 400, in San Francisco. Other Hot Pink events include a film and video screening on July 18 at Artists' Television Access at 22nd and Valencia, and a closing night party on August 8.

Hot Pink runs through August 30 and aims to unveil the broad spectrum of queer women's art, make a venue for the celebration of queer women's subculture, and develop relationships with artists as individuals. The exhibit runs at the historical society Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1-5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.lesbianarts.org, or call (415) 788-6118. ▼



From the 'Hot Pink' exhibit

COMMUNITY NEWS

San Jose, Sonoma celebrate Pride this weekend

by Matthew S. Bajko

Pride inches closer to home this weekend as San Jose throws out the rainbow colored welcome mat and Sonoma County brings its queer sensibilities into full view.

San Jose's 27th annual Gay Pride Festival kicks off Friday, June 7 with the "Sister Sock Show" at the San Jose Museum of Art. The zany San Francisco-based performance troupe, founded by Sister Dana Van Iquity and Sister Kitty Catalyst, is known for forced audience participation, projectiles and poorly executed narrative (in their own words). In between performances, DJ Pusspull will throw down the tracks for the crowd.

Saturday, June 8 brings Community Day at Discovery Meadow, next to the Children's Discovery Museum on the corner of San

Carlos and Woz Way in downtown San Jose. The free event, from noon to 6 p.m. will feature local entertainment, activities for the entire family, arts and crafts, food and drink, and a fun run and volleyball.

Sunday, June 9 heralds the annual Pride Parade which kicks off at 11 a.m. and travels down Market Street between St. John and West San Carlos Street, ending at the Pride Festival in Discovery Meadow. This year's festival costs \$10 and entertainers include The Pointer Sisters, Martha Wash, the Cheeseballs, and Imperial Teen.

Also performing at the giant club dance tent will be Ultra Naté and Robin S. There will also be a country western area and a leather alley. The festival runs from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information or directions, visit the San Jose Pride Web site at www.sjgaypride.com.

North Bay Pride

The 12th annual Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Celebration also marches down Santa Rosa's main street this Sunday. Pansy Division, the nationally acclaimed San Francisco gay rockers, headline this year's festival. Also at this year's celebration will be DJ Lori Z. and San Francisco musician Garren Benfield and his band on the heels of releasing a new CD.

The weekend officially kicks off with the Sonoma Pride Dance Friday, June 7. Doors open at 8 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park and features Kay Irvine and her band, followed by DJ Lori Z. For tickets, call (707) 546-1736.

Saturday, June 8, brings the Lesbian and Gay Comedy Night in Santa Rosa at the Luther Burbank Center. Performers include Karen Williams, Jason Stuart, and Regina Stoops. Doors open at 8 p.m. and tickets range from \$17.50 to \$25. For more information call (707) 546-3600.

On Sunday, June 9 the parade will begin at noon in downtown Santa Rosa and marches down Mendocino Avenue from 1st Street to Santa Rosa Junior College. The Pride Celebration will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. at Santa Rosa Junior College, 1501 Mendocino Avenue, in Santa Rosa.

For more info, visit the official Sonoma County Pride Web site at www.sonic.net/~webscribe/pride/.

Oakland Black Pride starts next Friday

by Zak Szymanski

While other Pride celebrations across the country tend to focus on revelry, Oakland's Black Pride carves out more of a place to hold discussions, plan strategy, exchange culture, and meet new people. The series of events kicks off next Friday, June 14, and continues through Saturday, June 15 at various locations around the East Bay city.

A couple of thousand people are expected to attend the weekend's activities, according to organizer Bernard Henderson of the Black Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual, Same-Gender Loving Network, which includes an awards ceremony, a free conference, and literary readings by noted authors.

"It's a wonderful and exciting time to be doing this, and I look forward to it every year," said Henderson. "Our Pride is not traditionally like other Prides in that we don't have a lot of parties. We tend to honor local folks and look forward to having a space to sit down and talk to each other."

On Friday, June 14, the fifth annual Marlon Riggs Achievement Awards will be presented at the Oakland YWCA at 1515 Webster Street from 7 p.m. until mid-

night. The event is free and will honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. It is also a great place to network, said Henderson, and vending booth space is available.

Saturday, June 15 brings the fifth annual It's Natural conference, with youth, gay, lesbian, HIV, transgender, and spirituality discussions taking place all day, along with presentations by authors Antonio LeMons, James Earl Hardy, Laurinda D. Brown, Stanley Bennett Clay, and Tuan Ngai. The conference runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the SMAAC Youth Center, 1738 Telegraph Avenue, and includes breakfast and lunch. It's also free.

BGLTBSGLN's mission is to sponsor, engage in, and collaborate in community activities that fund, promote, or foster improved public awareness of the critical socioeconomic, physical, and mental health issues facing black gay, lesbian, and transgender-identified persons living in the state of California. It is committed to removing the barriers of homophobia, fear, and denial by raising social consciousness and bridging the divide between the heterosexual and homosexual communities.

For more info on next weekend's Black Pride in Oakland, call (510) 268-0646 or visit www.californiablackprides.org.

Sacto Pride next Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

The Lambda Community Center in Sacramento will host Freedom Fair 2002, the capital city's largest LGBT Pride event, next Saturday, June 15 at Southside Park.

The theme of the daylong festival is "Bringing Communities Together." Attractions include an antique car show, featuring the Free-wheelers, a gay auto group. Entertainment will be provided by Cheer-San Francisco, Duval Speck, Gill and Steele, the G.G. Amos Band, the Sacramento Men's Chorus, Danielle and Her Divas, the Capitol City Squares dance group, Jesse Molina, and DJ Jon Williams. Attendees can also vote for the

next Mr., Ms., and Miss Gay Pride of Sacramento. Vendors will include community groups and businesses.

The Freedom Fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Southside Park, located on T Street, between 6th and 8th streets. For more info, visit www.lambda-sacramento.com or call the community center at (916) 442-0185.

Correction

The article last week, "Contra Costa gay center to host 'Honors Night'" listed the incorrect date. The event is this Saturday, June 8 at the Walnut Creek Marriott. For more information, call Thom Phillips at (925) 692-0090. We regret the error.



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Assembly OKs tenant bill

by Zak Szymanski

A tenant protection bill that specifies parameters for the handling of security deposits passed the California Assembly on Wednesday, May 29 by a vote of 42-30. Assemblywoman Carole Migden's (D-San Francisco) AB2330 is now in the Senate Rules Committee awaiting assignment, and tenant advocates are hopeful that it will pass that house as well. AB2330 provides tenants with the option of an inspection before

they move out and defines "ordinary wear and tear" so that renters can make minor repairs and won't have to face surprise deductions from their deposit. It further provides for interest payments on their deposits.

"This is what we call security deposit reform," said Alan LoFaso, Migden's chief of staff in Sacramento. "It makes it easier for tenants to reclaim their security deposits by addressing some of the ambiguities in the law."

Although advocates had hoped to include language that would

have allowed tenants to pay large security deposits in installments, that provision was deemed too far-reaching for the bill, as many landlords objected to what they called being in the banking business. Still, supporters said that AB2330 should provide some basic clarity that protects tenants from subjective and unnecessary fees.

"This is incredibly reasonable reform," said Robert Haaland of the San Francisco-based Housing Rights Committee, "and a much more humane system for renters." ▼

Brown unveils SF budget

by Joe Dignan

Mayor Brown's new proposed budget for San Francisco's upcoming fiscal year, which the mayor called "the first in my six and half years as mayor that can't be called a proud budget," includes a \$7.7 million cut in the city's contribution to the Department of Public Health's \$1 billion budget.

But because nearly 70 percent of the DPH's funding is independent of the city's general fund and comes from state and federal sources, the health department's overall spending is budgeted to increase by nearly \$50 million, according to Health Department Director Dr. Mitchell Katz.

Katz said that while baseline

HIV/AIDS services will not be cut, some programs will still suffer.

The city's general fund will not make up for the loss of \$2.2 million in federal Ryan White CARE Act appropriations cut by the Bush administration as it did at the end of this fiscal year.

DPH also will not pay for some AIDS programs added back to the mayor's budget by the Board of Supervisors last year. These were \$400,000 to the Ark of Refuge, \$175,000 to Shanti, \$367,000 to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for housing assistance, plus smaller grants to the Positive Resource Center, a Native American AIDS program, Stop AIDS Project, Dolores Street Community Services, and the Transitions Program.

But, according to Katz, the de-

partment will retain funding for HIV prevention programs which were added back to the mayor's budget last year.

During the budget process, the mayor had asked all city departments to find 10 percent reductions in their budgets - which at DPH threatened more cuts to SFAF's housing and hotline programs, counseling services at the AIDS Health Project, and volunteer coordination at Shanti.

According to Monique Zmuda, chief financial officer at DPH, the department will not be making those cuts.

Instead, DPH will close a civil service staffed laundry at Laguna Honda Hospital and replace it with a contract service, will cut \$3.4 million in contract substance

page 15 ▶

san José

gay pride

celebration

9 JUNE
2002

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imperial teen

police

the punter sisters

the everglades

the watergarden

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festival 11am

discovery meadow

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27th annual parade and festival
sunday, june 9

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LYRIC's 'champions' honored



Young people were the stars at the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center's annual "Champion Awards" reception May 30 at the LGBT Community Center. From left in back, departing Executive Director Brian Cheu, honoree Vanessa Duran, Supervisor Mark Leno, and honorees Jessica Green and Lateefah Simon from the Center for Young Women's Development. In front from left, honorees Jordan Green and Dani Montgomery.

Art bridges young & old

by Zak Szymanski

There are many programs for queer youth here in the Bay Area, and various programs for LGBT seniors are beginning to emerge as well. But it is a rare project that combines several generations worth of experiences into one event, as is the case with "Intergeneration: Building Queer Community Across the Ages Through Art."

Intergeneration invites lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, families and elders — queers of all ages — to create fine art and literary work that reflects their experiences of aging as a member of the LGBTQ community.

Founded by Frank Pietronigro and supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Equity Grant Program, a "Creating Queer Community" grant, and a grant from the Castro Street Fair Corporation, Intergeneration will

present an exhibition and two free performances as part of this year's National Queer Arts Festival.

"Potlatch: Sharing a Lifetime of Experience, Stories, and Treasures from our Tribe," features dance, song, and storytelling by Intergeneration performers who will express themes of intergenerational mentoring, the passing on of queer culture from one generation to the next, and the challenges faced by the young and old alike.

Audience members are encouraged to pick up and fill out story spiral cards that will be added to the Intergeneration treasure chest and possibly woven into the performance. Story spiral cards are available throughout the Castro District of San Francisco, at the LGBT Community Center (1800 Market Street); at the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, (SF Main Public Library, 3rd floor), at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts (1519 Mis-

sion Street); at Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (127 Collingwood); and at New Leaf Outreach To Elders (1875 Market Street).

Free performances take place on Sunday, June 9, at 2 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium at the San Francisco Public Library at 100 Larkin Street; and on Wednesday, June 19, at 7 p.m. at the community center.

Additionally, "Intergeneration Treasures," an interdisciplinary exhibition of project documents, personal stories, photographs, and literary works, will be shown through June 15 at the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the SF Public Library. And the Intergeneration project also intends to publish an anthology of finished works.

For more information on upcoming Intergeneration events, call (415) 695-9010, e-mail intergeneration@earthlink.net, or visit www.intergeneration.org.

SF Methodists to sponsor DP workshops

by Joe Dignan

Bethany United Methodist Church will sponsor a series of forums and workshops about domestic partnerships and the Methodist Church this Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8. The Friday program will feature Kate Kendell, lawyer, law professor, and head of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a national advocacy group headquartered in San Francisco.

The Reverend Karen Oliveto is the pastor at Bethany, whose congregation is about 50 percent gay and lesbian. She is organizing the workshops, she said, "to be more responsive to the needs of domestic partners," whose relationships the Methodist Church does not officially recognize.

"The Methodist Church supports legal rights for gays and lesbians," Oliveto said. "But pastors are not allowed to perform blessings for same-sex couples. We think that's hypocritical."

Arguments are going on in most Christian denominations about how churches should treat same-sex couples.

Neither the Methodist, Presbyterian nor Lutheran churches permit blessings of same-sex unions. Those policies are set at national conventions, which in the Methodist Church is called the General Conference and is held every four years — the next conference takes place in May 2004.

The Methodist Church banned

gay commitment ceremonies in 1996, but remains deeply divided on the subject. One faction, members of the "Confessing Movement," will accept gay members only if they acknowledge their sexuality as sinful. Members of the rival "Reconciling Congregation," including the Reverend Don Fado in Sacramento, are open to gays and lesbians.

Fado and 67 other ministers presided over a marriage-like ceremony for a lesbian couple in January 1999 and provoked a schism within the church that resulted in resignations by pastors on both sides of the issue. The arguments prompted some congregations to break away from the United Methodist Church and found their own community churches.

But the ability of individual ministers to act independently and foment change from a minority opinion depends a lot on the structure of the denomination.

Robert Cromey, the recently retired minister who headed Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco and performed some of the earliest blessings of gay unions in the Episcopal Church in 1968, said that his ability to do so depended on the autonomy of individual ministers in his denomination.

"In the Episcopal Church I had to have my hands in the till or in somebody's panties, or do something really heretical, to get moved," Cromey said.

In the Methodist Church, as in the Catholic Church, ministers serve at the whim of the bishop, according to Cromey.

"The bishop forbade me to do these things. Now at Grace Cathedral they do these as part of their ministry," Cromey said.

Bethany's posture is more careful.

"We are not officially going against the United Methodist Church," said Bruce Pettit, of Bethany's domestic partners committee. "We're trying to stay within the boundaries of what the church will permit us to do."

But, added Oliveto, "We think the church needs to be responsive to the lives and loves of all its members."

Friday's program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany with an address from Kendell. Singer and songwriter Judy Fjell will also perform. Admission is on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$50.

Saturday's workshops will begin with registration at 9 a.m. Topics will include "How to advocate for domestic partner legislation," with Cynthia Goldstein of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; "How to create rituals to celebrate same-sex unions," with pastor Phyllis Zilhart of St. Francis Lutheran Church; "Pastoral Care for Same-sex Couples," with therapist Juliet Dantin; "The Bible and Domestic Partnership," with the Reverend Jan Everhart; and "The United Methodist Church and Social Change," with the Reverend Bud Tillinghast.

Bethany is located at 1268 Sanchez Street (at Clipper) in Noe Valley. For more information, call (415) 647-8393.

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Cynthia LairdARTS EDITOR
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Wayne FridayASSISTANT EDITORS
Matthew S. Bajko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dan Aiello • Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler
John Blanco • Dan Blue • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Richard Dadds
Glen Helfand • Liz Higleyman • Joe E. Jeffreys
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David EnsignPHOTOGRAPHERS
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National Gay Newspaper Guild
United Press InternationalBay Area Reporter
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http://www.ebar.comNews Editor • barpaper@aol.com
Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com
Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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OPEN FORUM

The new federalism

Last week the same conservative U.S. Supreme Court that in 2000 handed George W. Bush the presidency expanded states' immunity from federal regulatory agencies. While the case involved a dispute between the Federal Maritime Commission and the state-owned Port of Charleston in South Carolina, we would argue that the Supreme Court could take lessons from that case in allowing similar immunity to states that have taken action to allow the use of medical marijuana.

The court's decision last week marked an important expansion in states' rights—a concept used repeatedly by Republicans to justify less involvement by the federal government in financing and administering various social programs. Taking a page from their playbook, we say the concept of states' rights should be applicable to states that have approved the use of medical marijuana, such as California and several others.

When the Supreme Court ruled against medical cannabis last year, the issue of states' rights was not addressed. It should be. As we await the likely issuance of a permanent injunction against medical marijuana clubs in California by a federal judge, we hope that the issue will return to the high court in the form of a states' rights argument.

Locally, one medical marijuana club in San Francisco has already closed and another one in Santa Rosa was raided by federal authorities last week. With the permanent injunction order from U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer (brother of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer) expected soon, those in the medical cannabis community are extremely concerned—and rightly so—that raids by the Drug Enforcement Administration will be stepped up, and that thousands of patients who depend on the drug to alleviate side effects from treatments for AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses will be forced to go either without their medicine or take the risks associated with purchasing pot on street corners. Neither of those alternatives are acceptable, given the fact that California voters overwhelmingly approved

Proposition 215 in 1996; since then, other states have followed suit.

Instead of stepping up raids, the government should be stepping up research of medical marijuana so that more definitive information about its benefits can be determined scientifically—but that's not happening either. In fact, the Associated Press reported last month that the federally authorized medical marijuana given to participants in a small San Mateo County study is of such poor quality that at least one of the people in the study gave up smoking the joints altogether after he became fed up with

the seeds and stems in the government-grown joints. Dale Gieringer, of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, called the pot "stale, low-po-

tency ditch weed."

AP went on to note that the federal government defended its pot—(grown in Mississippi) saying it "does not contain sticks and seeds."

The debate about medical marijuana should not be tied to the war on drugs, as the Department of Justice has done since before Proposition 215 was passed. States that have approved the use of medical marijuana should be allowed to implement cannabis centers and identification cards (as San Francisco has done) to make it easier for patients to get their medicine.

Following their own reasoning in the recent federalism case, the Supreme Court justices should apply the same logic to medical cannabis if and when the issue again comes before them. ▼



Editorial



An unlucky strike for us

by Naphtali Offen

Last year, as in previous years, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation arranged for a corporate donor, tobacco giant Brown and Williamson, to host a "Lucky Strike Smokers' Lounge" at its annual Media Awards banquet. GLAAD was found to be in violation of the California Labor Code when wait staff and hosts were exposed to clouds of tobacco smoke. Nonetheless, the invitations for this year's event boasted that a smokers' lounge would once again be provided.

When questioned last year by Bob Gordon of San Francisco's Coalition of Lavender-Americans on Smoking and Health, the queer tobacco control group that's been raising a ruckus for more than a decade, GLAAD's Cathy Renna said her group needed Brown and Williamson's money to fight the good fight for LGBT rights. But B&W's contribution was only a small percent of GLAAD's \$2.5 million take at the banquet series. Does GLAAD really depend on the B&W contribution? LGBTs smoke significantly more than the mainstream and thus, suffer from more tobacco-caused illness and death. In the year 2000, when 15,000 Americans died from AIDS, 420,000 died from tobacco. Shouldn't these facts influence GLAAD's policies?

Unfortunately, what does influence GLAAD's policies are its ties to the tobacco industry. When CLASH wanted to pay for a public service announcement in the program for GLAAD's Fairness Awards luncheon last November, it was turned down. The ad, which has appeared in a dozen publications nationwide, including the Bay Area Reporter, was called "How They Get Us to Screw Ourselves" and linked the purchase of

cigarettes by gay people to tobacco industry support for homophobes in Congress. At first, GLAAD reps said the title was too sexually suggestive; then they said the program included only ads that were tributes to GLAAD; then, when CLASH pointed out the inclusion of an ad for Parliament cigarettes, they said they made an exception for longtime corporate advertisers. Clearly, they didn't want to antagonize their tobacco pals.

Sad to say, GLAAD has been shilling for the tobacco industry for a long time. As early as 1991, GLAAD took \$10,000 from Philip Morris, earning every penny of it. In internal tobacco industry documents, tobacco executives applauded GLAAD for services rendered. In 1992, Philip Morris took out its first ad in the gay press, in *Genre*. While some LGBT leaders condemned what they saw as predatory targeting of yet another marginalized minority, a representative from GLAAD refocused the issue as one of "inclusion." He said Philip Morris was "recognizing the power, and the clout and the importance of the gay and lesbian community," and that Philip Morris's ad "brings gays into the mainstream of consumers." A grateful Philip Morris executive noted, "We will continue to refer reporters to him."

It took years of yelling and screaming to get the establishment to pay attention to the AIDS epidemic. It seems we have to do the same to call attention to the tobacco scourge. It's particularly painful that we have to do so with GLAAD, which should know better. GLAAD fights for accurate media portrayals of our community in order to stem the tide of hatred and violence against us and promote our self-esteem and

sense of well-being. As such, it is part of the larger LGBT health movement. To ignore the enormous damage wrought by tobacco is to abandon this larger mission.

In a saner world, the tobacco industry would be converted to one that did not maim and kill a large portion of its customers as well as many people who don't smoke. Until that happens, our most effective tool is to denormalize tobacco. Many tireless activists fought hard to make California a model for tobacco control worldwide. It reflects badly on GLAAD that it comes to this state, of all places, and undermines the good work that has been done here.

CLASH has long debated the wisdom of going public with this dirty laundry, and for a long time, we refrained from doing so. We applaud the important role GLAAD plays as the media watchdog for our community, while criticizing its role as corporate apologist. Since GLAAD's Executive Director, Joan Garry, has dismissed our concerns, we feel it's important and appropriate for the LGBT community to have a principled dialogue about what is in its interest and how our national organizations might best serve us.

It's time that GLAAD joined the growing number of LGBT organizations and publications that have adopted official "no tobacco money" policies. Contact GLAAD to urge it to do so at GLAAD@GLAAD.org or 800-429-6334 and copy CLASH at info@lastdrag.org. ▼

Naphtali Offen is a founding board member of both CLASH and GLAAD.

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Let Palestinians build state

We queer writers wish to express our horror and sadness at the destruction being wrought on the Palestinian people and their institutions. Israeli security will not result from such brutal and apartheid-like tactics. To be against Israel's military incursions does not equal anti-Semitism or being for terrorism. Israel receives a \$3 billion-a-year grant-in-aid package from us Americans to help fund the world's fourth largest army, so we are involved. In fact, America stands alone on the stage of the whole world not to condemn Israel's expansionism – i.e., theft – of others' lands. There can be no peace in the region until Israel withdraws its army and withdraws from its settlements on Palestinian lands – the root cause of the conflict. Say to Israel: get out of Palestinian territory, just leave and let the Palestinians build their own state in peace. We think American policy should be to promote civil society and democracy among all parties of this conflict, not only Israel and the Palestinians, but also Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, Iraq, etc. Peace and human rights, including the rights of gays and women, can only develop within a context of civil society and democratic institutions.

Bruce Boone, Camille Roy, Robert Gluck, Bruce Benderson, Dennis Cooper, Larry Roberts, Beverly Dahlen, Lewis Ellingham, Kevin Killian, Dottie Bellamy, Brian Pera, Rachel Levitsky, Betsy Andrews, Jocelyn Saldenberg, Michelle Tea, Kari Edwards, Roger Dorris, Roberto Tejada, David Halperin, Gail Scott, Susie Bright, Stefani Barber, J.F. Karr, Patrick Ryan

Follow the bouncing ball

I'm glad to see such a response in last week's *B.A.R.* to the letter of David Alexander Nahmod [*Mailstrom*, May 23]. His ignorance is more than likely caused by the propaganda perpetrated in the United States media. The bigger picture behind Nahmod's prejudice could just be his mirroring what our own government wants him to think. Just following the bouncing ball, and singing their tune.

The U.S. government deregulates the corporations, gives the corporations the airwaves for free, and they in turn do the bidding of the government. When was the last time you saw news footage of all the innocent civilians the U.S. killed in Afghanistan? Or a story on the planned oil pipeline in Afghanistan? How about an article on the U.S. economic sanctions against Iraq which are responsible for the death of more than 1 million Iraqis, mostly children, since 1991? If it's not in the news, it's as if it doesn't exist. So, unless you search out the alternative press, you become a mouthpiece for the corporate media, which has little regard for the truth.

Now, at least with politicians, we can register to vote, and show up on election day, hoping it makes a difference. We can vote for the candidate that professes equal rights for LGBT folks, livable wages, universal healthcare. When, however, was the last time you had a say on the dictates of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, or the World Trade Organization? The direction of these organizations is all to insure that there is policy insulated from politics. In other words, the general populations of the world have no role in decision-making. It's the same with Clear Channel or any large corporations that are allowed to grow to hideous domination because of deregulation. There is less diversity, unions are now harder to form, and thousands of jobs are being shipped out of the country. We should be fighting these organizations and the monopolization of corporations and banks through our politicians and through our personal resistance. It's our best hope of helping to educate folks like Nahmod, and turn things around.

Coincidentally, this year's Pride theme is "Be Yourself, Change the World." So, as you watch the LGBT Parade from behind the gated barrier, with its endless corporate banners going by; think of the Nahmods in our community who are being spoon-fed their propaganda and swallowing it, hook, line, and sinker.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

New batteries needed

Jay Abbott could do something more useful with his time than write appallingly uninformed cheap shots masquerading as a letter about Project Open Hand Executive Director Tom Nolan's salary [*Mailstrom*, May 30].

Obviously, Abbott's got an ax to grind, and clearly doesn't live in the real world when it comes to salaries – or the cost of POH meals. I suggest he get new batteries for his calculator or find a tutor.

[Ruth] Brinker did not do it for less, as a matter of fact, but the point is immaterial. That was then, this is now.

As a disabled person dependent upon POH's daily meals for the majority of my nutritional needs, I find them to be of consistently high quality, tasty, and delivered every day, rain or shine, with sincere compas-

sion and concern by POH volunteers. To a hungry, disabled person – and to the thousands of POH supporters and volunteers – the meals are a life saver and an act of compassion.

It's easy to be an armchair critic, it's also easy to bite the hand that feeds. But uninformed carping serves no one except Abbott's personal agenda, or some romantic but deluded idea of how it was in the beginning days of a nonprofit.

I was there. I know how it was and how it is now. I never thought I'd be a recipient of meals from a program I helped raise funds for, but shit happens.

The staff of POH is not well served by the hogwash Abbott dishes out. But they are too busy to pay much notice.

If Abbott is so concerned about incompetence or malfeasance at POH, I suggest he contact the state attorney general's office and ask for a review. Been there. Done that. Wrote about it. POH is in fine shape and has excellent leadership.

Dennis Conkin
San Francisco

Questions about Feinstein

I read with some amusement Wayne Friday's rhetorical question, "Should we take the word of Feinstein over that of a partisan White House flack?" To ensure that we give the correct answer, he tells us, "Any hour of any day" [*"Dick Cheney: Not a matter of if, but when," Our Man Friday, May 23*].

Well, I wonder. Does this include that day in May of last year when she looked right into the camera and told us that she had voted to repeal the estate tax because of her deep and abiding concern for the heirs of small business owners?

Can anyone think of any other possible reason why a woman wealthy in her own right and married to a man worth \$800 million might want to repeal the estate tax?

She may not be as big a liar as Fleischer, but she's damn sure a liar, not to mention consumed with greed. It grieves me greatly that I voted for her at every opportunity for the past 25 years, and it's too late now as she stabs the nation in the back on her way out.

Louis Bryan
San Francisco

Check out Molly

I was interested in and pleased about the fact that your political columnist, Wayne Friday, recently referred to and quoted from a Molly Ivins column [*Our Man Friday, May 23*].

She's informative, concise, and witty. I hope Friday's referral encourages your readers to check her out. Her columns appear regularly in the progressive *The Nation*, and erratically in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

Open letter to Stop AIDS Project

For the Harry Hay Award at the second annual SF Geezers' Ball on June 23, honoring "an elder hero of our tribe," Senior Unlimited Nudes nominates Jordan Lee, who founded G40+ (now Prime Timers) in 1973, linking mid-life and senior queer men.

Back when others dealt with aging by denial, Jordan foresaw ever-growing needs for mutual stimulation (social, intellectual, and more) by and for men widely despised as irrelevant "left-overs," once their springtime had ended.

Age remains painful, but this visionary pioneer has made it less so.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
Senior Unlimited Nudes
San Francisco

Arrogance is unforgivable sin

This is in response to Supervisor Mark Leno's guest opinion [*"An open letter to the pope," May 9*]. In the year 1000 A.D., the church expected the second coming of Jesus. This longed-for sentimental event did not happen. The credibility of the church was undermined. Within a few decades, the church called a Crusade against the infidels in the East, that is, Jerusalem. By calling this "holy war," the church once again regained its tight control over the populace of Europe.

In the year 2000 A.D., the church expected the second coming of Jesus. This, as before, did not happen. The credibility of the church has been shattered. A sentimental craving (fascism) to return the populace of the world to the complete control of a patriarchal system is the new crusade. Gay men are the infidel (because we think and question arrogant leaders).

The New Testament calls the sin against the Holy Spirit the only unforgivable sin, not gay sex. The unforgivable sin is arrogance.

Douglas Alexander Matley
San Francisco

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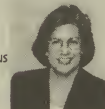
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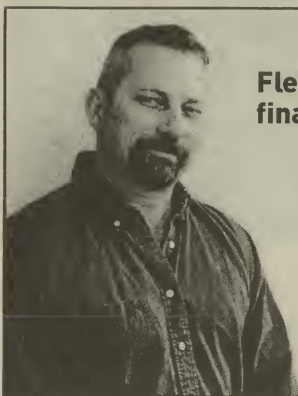
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The politics of class

by Paula Martinac

When Rich Tafel of the Log Cabin Republicans publicly questioned the need for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, gay activists and moderate GOPers on Capitol Hill got riled up. But, in fact, Tafel's assertion that he "almost never hear[s] from anyone who was fired because they were gay" is probably true for him and many other gay people of a certain class. His assertion points to the fact that too often in the gay movement we ignore economics and class privilege.

To be honest, I don't know anyone who has been fired for being gay. But then, I'm fortunate to live in a liberal, Northeastern city with an anti-discrimination law that protects my partner's teaching position at a public university and affords me healthcare benefits as her domestic partner. In addition, most of my friends work for gay organizations or are freelancers, so ENDA won't impact their lives directly.

But I get really annoyed when gay people on both the right and the left let their limited life experience, often based on class privilege, lead them to the conclusion that our movement doesn't need to work on issues that don't register on their personal radar screens. This has happened time and again with issues like the military, gay marriage, and, most recently, ENDA and welfare.

Think back, for example, to when the issue of gays in the military burst into public consciousness in 1993. Many middle-class, college-educated gay activists on the left completely dismissed the military issue as one that was of no concern to the traditionally pacifist gay movement. Rarely figuring into the discussion in our community was the fact that many young people, gay and straight, join the armed forces for economic reasons or to get an education.

Likewise, some lesbian-feminists (and by the way, I have long considered myself one) drove me crazy during the early stages of the same-sex marriage debate, when the most vocal among them ar-

gued that marriage was an oppressive institution that our movement shouldn't support. Curiously, the staunchest opponents of marriage always seemed to be women with advanced degrees, enjoying secure jobs with generous pension plans, who didn't need to concern themselves with the economic benefits and protections that marriage could afford same-sex couples.

To their credit, many left activists eventually reversed their early positions on the military and marriage and began to see the economic issues behind them. But now we have one of the most visible gay Republicans declaring that passage of ENDA "probably won't really change the lives of gay Americans." He points to the fact that "the vast majority of major employers in America have non-discrimination policies" and that the cities and states with the largest gay populations now have protections in place for gay people.

Tafel is correct in a very narrow sense. Hundreds of large corporations do indeed have non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation, as do 12 states and more than 200 local governments. But there's still no protection for the vast number of gay people who don't work for Microsoft or AT&T but instead are employed by smaller businesses. Often most vulnerable are the workers who can least afford to lose their jobs—those in non-management positions or in blue- and pink-collar jobs, living in localities without anti-discrimination ordinances (or with laws that only cover government workers). A trip to the Human Rights Campaign's Web site (www.hrc.org) to view some of the results of its "Documenting Discrimination" program shows that among the many gay people

enough money to grant scholarships to those who wanted to attend but lacked the funds. Advertised through the Internet, people from as far away as Australia and Denmark attended the conference.

"Until I saw them all, I didn't believe so many disabled queers would be willing to come," said Samuels. "Even to come out as queer disabled you are fighting all these stereotypes."

With the first conference a success, participants said they hope it planted the seeds for a new movement to grow and mature into a successful lobbying force for disabled queers.

"This is a historic moment, a turning point. This is the merging of two single issues—queerness and disability—into a movement," said Naomi Finklestein, a queer disabled woman from Seattle who took part in a writers panel at the conference. "Both of those things challenge the theory of the normal. We are working towards real liberation."

A closer knit group has already



Christine Smith

who say they've lost jobs on account of their sexual orientation are restaurant personnel, retail salespeople, postal clerks, mail-order workers, and even a pest-control technician.

Also at high risk are public school teachers and coaches, because of the persistent fear that gay people who work with children will molest them (a fear currently being fed by the sex-abuse scandal among Catholic priests). Recently, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a first-ever federal lawsuit on behalf of an Alabama teacher who says he was fired because he's gay. Sadly, the plaintiff has to remain anonymous because he's teaching in another Alabama school and is afraid that going public could again cost him his job. In emphasizing the places in the country with gay-rights laws, Tafel ignores the fact that states like Alabama aren't going to enact such anti-discrimination laws any time soon.

There's a final class-related issue in the headlines these days whose importance our community also downplays—the welfare reauthorization bill now before Congress. Among our major organizations, only the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has seen fit to lobby against it, recognizing that many gay and transgendered people need the benefits of welfare and could be denied them by a bill that focuses heavily on "marriage incentives" and the promotion of abstinence. NGLTF is to be commended for consistently considering class issues an integral part of gay politics and activism. ▼

Disabled queers

◀ page 1

More than 300 queer disabled people gathered at San Francisco State University last weekend for the first-ever queer disability conference. Through art exhibits and performance pieces, sessions and panels, and just sharing their stories, conference attendees said they were able to find a sense of belonging.

"It's been great getting a chance to network. I am really finding out that people have different disabilities than myself but we have the same experiences," said Aguilera. "A lot of things resonate."

That was the hope of Samuels, who with a group of seven other queer crips, spent the last two years organizing the conference. It was no easy task. Organizers instituted a no scent policy and had to cover the \$20,000 price tag for sign language interpreters to be at the two-day conference.

Also, many disabled queers live in poverty so organizers raised

formed due to the connections made at the conference.

"What resonates the most is the opportunity to have conversations with a huge variety of people about our experiences being both queer and disabled," said McKiernan. "I am coming away from this knowing I am not alone."

Already a group of queer crips from Georgia is planning to host the second conference in Atlanta next year. And a queer disabled resource guide is in the works.

"It's an exciting beginning I think for the intersection of queerness and disabled being out in this context," said Gene Chelberg, an openly gay blind man who is the director of San Francisco State's disability programs and resource center. "I think overall in the GLBT community there has been a lot of effort making community events accessible. The services are provided but the heart and emotion still isn't there."

"So that is the challenge for the queer community." ▼

POLITICS

Time to dump state's early primary

by Wayne Friday

Apparently agreeing that California's March primary election is much too early to attract the attention of voters, the state Senate last week approved a bill by Senator **Ross Johnson** (R-Irvine) on a 26-4 vote that would move the state's primary date for state and congressional candidates from March to August. The bill, SB1975, still must be approved by the Assembly before going to the governor.

California has given the March primary experience a chance and it doesn't work. The main reason for the March primary — an early presidential primary gives Californians a stronger voice in the selection of presidential nominees — remains valid. Under the new plan, the presidential primary would remain in March, giving California three statewide elections in presidential years, but despite that, it's a better proposal than the problematic March primaries for state and congressional candidates. Sixty-six percent of the state's registered voters didn't vote on March 5. Timing was the culprit in the record low turnout this spring as it seems many voters didn't even realize an election was coming until it was too late; many didn't even bother to go to the polls.

The result of the March primary is that we now have eight agonizing months of campaigning, and by November, voters may likely tune the entire thing out. SB1975 would move the state primary (again, excluding presidential election years) from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August. While some election officials say that August is too late to meet many deadlines, the Legislature should be able to change the deadlines. After all, 24 states will hold their primaries in August and September this year, and besides, the new law wouldn't go into effect until 2004.

The Legislature and the governor really should adopt this new plan since the March primary is too costly to democracy in that the turnout is extremely low, and the fact that months of campaigning diverts elected officials from their jobs.

We have tried the early primary plan and it doesn't work; those who would complain that an August primary would fall during summer vacation should compare that with a yearlong campaign this year. There's another reason the March primary is not good — reports have it that some people interested in running for office actually didn't this year because of early filing deadlines that meant paperwork had to be done during the hectic holiday season.

All said, March doesn't work, and the Assembly should follow the state Senate by passing SB1975 so that the new law can be put in place by 2004.

Politics and people

Brother, can you spare a coast? **George W. Bush** recently went to Florida and pledged \$235 million

in federal funds to buy back oil and natural gas rights in the Everglades and off the white-sand beaches of the Florida Panhandle — steps that would help with that state's tourism income, and just coincidentally, also help his brother's re-election chances in November. So, what about California, you ask? Actually, the situation here is similar — oil companies have bought 40 leases up and down the coastline and either want at the oil or want somebody to buy them out. That "somebody" more than likely would be the same federal government that issued the leases. So, is Dubya going to come to the aid of California environmentalists?

Forget about it. Brother **Jeb** is running for re-election in Florida, not California. So, the president is snubbing California, defending, of course, the oil interests and leaving open the prospect of more drilling along the state's coastline.

As we go to press I understand that Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** has all but decided that he will indeed seek re-election in District 2 this November and wait until next year to gear up for the mayor's race. Not particularly comforting for fellow Supervisor **Tom Amiano** (won't the next year and a half on the board be fun now?), nor those would-be supes who had planned to run in District 2 if Newsom decided not to. See ya later, **Jim Lazarus**.

As for the proposal that Newsom has planned for the November ballot that would cut back on the cash payouts given to the homeless: I know a lot of people who will help with those petitions, supervisor. Meanwhile, Supervisor **Chris Daly** is vowing to put a policy on homelessness on the ballot this year as well, saying that the mentally ill homeless need more resources (can't disagree with that Mr. Daly, but more resources to help with their mental problems, not more cash for drugs and booze). Daly also says that the homeless drunks need their own place to "chill out" (according to a report in the *Independent*); maybe Daly can arrange a "chill out" spot at that Armory on 14th Street, or somewhere else near Stevenson Street.

And from the Hall of Justice comes word that District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** has dropped plans on running for mayor (good idea, Terence) but says that "right now, I'm running again for district attorney." **Bill Fazio** and Deputy City Attorney **Kamala Harris** are reportedly both set to run for D.A. as well; Kayo might just be staying at the party one election cycle too long.

And, we keep hearing the **Susan Leal** for mayor rumor; sounds like a good idea to me.

A reader e-mails the following about that snippy and reportedly unpopular (with her co-workers, that is) KNTV anchor: "**Terilyn Joe**'s alleged run-in with noisy neighborhood workers (she's accused of tossing eggs and tomatoes at them) means it's only a matter of time until a trendy restaurant introduces the Terilyn Joe omelet — just tomatoes and



KNTV anchor Terilyn Joe

eggs, but very hot!" Another hilarious suggestion courtesy of **Radar**, a poster on the Usual Suspects Web site message board (www.sfpolitics.com): "Terilyn Joe night at Trannyshack!"

When the Golden Gate Bridge District board of directors met last week looking for ways to cover a budget shortfall, San Francisco Director **Joseph Blue**, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, suggested cutting five of the 10 recently hired security officers. The response from director **Al Boro** (also mayor of San Rafael) was quick: "We have a president and a vice president saying the country is under a constant threat; unfortunately, the bridge is a very prominent target and we have to do everything in our power to protect it, and cutting the security force would send a very bad message to the people who use it." Blue shot back: "I stick by my position; if that makes me an irresponsible director, then I'm an irresponsible director." Hey, you said it, Mr. Blue.

Bill Simon is now claiming, as the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported, that he is the guy who brought down the Mafia crime families in New York (along with his assistant, **Rudy Giuliani**, that is). When you don't have a record to run on, you devise one, I guess.

Incidentally, while Simon and other Republicans continue to use Rudy Giuliani's star status to help raise funds, we learn that next to **Bill Clinton**, the top fundraiser for Democratic Senate and congressional candidates this year is quickly becoming Senator **Jim Jeffords** (I-Vermont), the former Republican who bolted from the GOP last year to switch Senate control to the Democrats. Democrats, particularly in the Senate, are turning to Jeffords for help across the country this year as they seek to get re-elected.

I caught both Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D) and Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D) on last Sunday's morning news shows and they made me damn proud they are both from San Francisco. Pelosi, appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press*, referring to the intelligence breakdown prior to the September 11 attacks: "Those guys [FBI, CIA, etc.] not only failed to 'connect the dots,' they didn't even see the dots." Feinstein warned President Bush not to even think of bringing military action against Iraq without Congress' approval (as many think will happen just before the November congressional elections).

Governor **Gray Davis** and the page 10 ►

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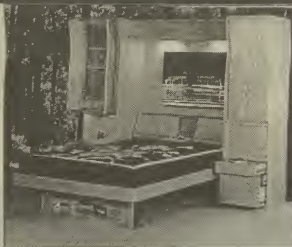
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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Who was Sir Roger Casement?

by Paula Martinac

June 1916 (86 years ago this month): Sir Roger Casement is found guilty of treason and sentenced to die.

A former British consul who became a revolutionary for Irish independence, Sir Roger Casement was hanged as a traitor in 1916. But Casement's homosexuality also played a significant role in his sentencing and has continued to stir debate through the years.

Casement started out life with conflicted ties to Ireland and England. He was born in 1864 in Ireland—at that time still a British territory—to a Protestant father of the landed gentry and a Catholic mother. But when Casement was orphaned as a young boy, a maternal aunt raised him in Liverpool. Even in his youth in England, he apparently showed interest in the Irish independence movement, avidly reading books about the history of his country and papering his bedroom walls with political cartoons about Irish nationalism.

As a young man, Casement took off for Africa, where he eventually became a British customs director in Niger. Soon after his career in foreign service got under way, his countryman Oscar Wilde was arrested and imprisoned in England for homosexuality—a sensational event that had a deep emotional impact on many gay men of that era. Understandably, Casement guarded his homosexuality while forging a public identity as a conscientious and selfless civil servant, wedded to his job instead of to a woman. His reports from Niger so impressed officials back in England that he was appointed consul to Lorenzo Marques in Portuguese East Africa, but he called this a “trifling” position that required him to “listen to a drunken sailor’s complaint, or the appeal to my charity of a distressed British subject.”

In 1898, Casement embarked on a more important diplomatic assignment, investigating atrocities committed by Belgian soldiers against African rubber workers in the Congo. In his consular diary, Casement dutifully recorded what he called “the daily agony of an entire people”—whippings, mutilations, and starvation by “the savage soldiery.” His work in the Congo earned him acclaim in England and eventually led to his appointment as consul-general of Brazil in 1908, where he uncovered more exploitation—this time of Brazilian Indians by a Peruvian



Sir Roger Casement

rubber company. Casement's official findings, released in 1912 as the “Putumayo Report,” made Britain and other world powers take a hard look at the abuse of colonized people, and Casement was honored with knighthood. But ironically, his exemplary work soon led to scandal.

Casement documented more than just his consular life in his diary. Included with his daily observations about the torture of native people were specifics about his sexual encounters with “rent boys,” stevedores, and sailors—sometimes multiple tricks in one day. Casement occasionally noted only the man's first name and how much he paid for sex, but he also often included explicit details: “Biggest since Lisbon 1904. ... Perfectly huge”; “Deep screw and to the hilt”; and “Rode gloriously, splendid steed.” An occasional quote from Wilde also turned up in the diary's pages. Of course, none of these references ever appeared in Casement's final reports.

His homosexuality might never have come to light had he not begun working for the Irish nationalist cause as a speaker and fundraiser soon after his return from Brazil and his retirement from consular duties in 1912. Casement's shift from public servant to revolutionary probably owed much to his work against colonial exploitation, which had given him a new understanding of the British oppression of the Irish. When World War I broke out in 1914, Casement actively lobbied the Irish people to support Germany, which had issued a statement in favor of Irish independence and had pledged arms and manpower to the revolutionary cause. But when Casement traveled to Germany to bring back soldiers and rifles, he found that country's support of Ireland little more than a scheme to scare the British. Because Irish rebels were

planning a massive uprising that was based on Germany's promised aid—and sure to fail without it—Casement hurried back to try to stop the rebellion. British intelligence learned about his movements, however, and Casement was arrested in Ireland on Good Friday—unable to block the so-called Easter Rebellion of 1916, which ended in defeat for the Irish rebels. (Twenty-six counties of southern, predominantly Catholic, Ireland finally won independence from England in 1921.)

In June 1916 Casement was tried in England and convicted of treason, a crime punishable by death. There was some talk, however, about an appeal based on his record of faithful public service. But before that could happen, Casement's diaries, which British authorities had seized, were made public; the details of his “perversion” shocked the king and Parliament and ended all speculation about a pardon. He was hanged in London on August 3.

That didn't end the saga of Roger Casement, however. For years, many in Ireland insisted that British authorities had forged Casement's “Black Diaries” (they were dubbed that on account of their homoerotic content, while his official journal was called “The White Diaries”) in order to discredit him and the Irish nationalist movement. Scholars made entire careers studying and arguing over the diaries, which were published in book form in 1959.

Finally, an analysis of Casement's diaries in March 2002 at Goldsmiths College of the University of London subjected them to handwriting, ultraviolet, and electrostatic tests that confirmed their authenticity and—after 86 years—Casement's own homosexuality. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at P0column@aol.com.

Suggested reading

Sawyer, Roger. 1984. *Roger Casement: The Flawed Hero*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Singleton-Gates, Peter, and Maurice Girodias. 1959. *The Black Diaries: An Account of Roger Casement's Life and Times with a Collection of His Diaries and Public Writings*. Paris: Olympia Press.

say we're talking about one of the most effective campaigners that this country has ever seen,” Scranton said.

Who does she think she is, **Jenna Bush**? British tabloids last week carried photos and stories about **Chelsea Clinton** being helped from a London late-night club by her Marin boyfriend. The *Sun* and the *Daily Mail* both ran photos of the 22-year-old former first daughter, suggesting she was a bit boozed up. The *Sun* ran a photo showing an apparently wobbly

page 19 ►

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

Democrats have those recordings of GOP opponent Bill Simon promising that if he's elected he'd support reviving portions of the discriminatory Proposition 187 (aimed at depriving illegal immigrants of government services from medical care to education) which the courts have ruled to be illegal. Further, Latino immigrants in the state will likely be reminded—often—that Simon, a trans-

planted New Jersey resident, failed to appear at a single Cinco de Mayo celebration this year while Davis attended several. It's all about politics, folks.

Ah, the Clintons: A class devoted to **Bill Clinton's** presidency will be offered at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock next term and it will be taught by a prominent Republican political science professor, **Margaret Scranton**. “The Clinton Presidency” will touch on the achievements and travails of Clinton's political life. “As a Republican, it pains me to

COMMUNITY NEWS

Never dull

by Jane Warner

1 8th between Church and Sanchez, May 31, 9:20 p.m.: Two men walking on 18th Street near Church observed two other men standing in the roadway ahead of them. As they got closer, one of the men pulled a gun from his waistband and demanded, "Give me your wallets." Defiantly, one of the victims told his assailant no, then reached out and grabbed his gun. A struggle ensued, and the other suspect punched the victim in the forehead. Both suspects started to run. A police cruiser happened to be passing by, and the victims pointed to the running suspects. As officers chased the robbers westbound on Dorland, one of the suspects threw down a black object. The suspects then separated, running in different directions. One of the suspects climbed a fence, entering the backyard of a residence. Officers climbed the fence after the suspect



and ordered him to drop to the ground. The suspect got down, but started to kick officers as they approached, so they struck him in the knees with a baton and took him into custody. The other suspect was lost in the area. Officers retrieved the black object and discovered it was a plastic toy gun. The 20-year-old arrested suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for attempted armed robbery, aggravated assault, and resisting arrest.

Lone prey

3000 block of Market, May 31, 11:10 p.m.: After leaving a bar in the Castro, a woman walked eight blocks to her home on Market Street. As she opened the door to her apartment, a strange man stepped out of the shadows and grabbed her from behind. The woman tried to resist, but the man was too strong and forced her into a nearby carport. She begged him to stop but the man yelled, "Shut up," then forced her down on the concrete pavement, climbed on top of her, and

pressed his forearm against her throat until she passed out. The assailant then sexually assaulted her. Described as an African American male, 20-30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, 165 pounds, and wearing dark clothing, the suspect fled in a unknown direction.

Cheap date

100 block of Collingwood, June 2, 1 a.m.: While walking home after the bars closed, a man met another man on Collingwood Street and asked him to his house, a short distance away. The new acquaintance agreed and followed his host home, but the man became suspicious when his invited guest left a short time later. Checking his house, the man noticed his Rolex watch was missing. The suspect, who said his name was "Tony," is a white male in his 40s, 5 feet 9 inches, 165 pounds, with "Rocky" tattooed on his left arm. He drove an older model pink Cadillac. The victim said that "Tony" left his number, but when he called it, he reached the Clear Lake (Lake County) Police Department. The man also told police that the Rolex was a fake and only worth about \$100. ▼

Santa Rosa medical marijuana club raided

by Liz Highleyman

Agents from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration raided a Sonoma County medical marijuana dispensary last Thursday, May 29. The Aiko Compassion Center, located on College Avenue near downtown Santa Rosa, served about 100 patients.

According to a DEA official, two sites were searched, two individuals were arrested, and cannabis, cash, an unspecified weapon, and a car were seized.

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat identified the two arrestees as Dan Nelson and Edward Bierling, both medical marijuana patients who have doctors' recommendations; Bierling's home also was searched. Nelson and Bierling were released

on bail after appearing in federal district court last Thursday. An arraignment is scheduled for June 18.

The raid comes after federal Judge Charles Breyer on May 3 denied a request to lift an injunction that prohibits local medical marijuana clubs from dispensing cannabis. Breyer is expected to issue a permanent injunction later this week.

Medical marijuana advocates have predicted stepped-up federal activity in the wake of the decision, and have organized a network to issue alerts about raids as they happen. A new group called Americans for Safe Access called for a phone zap of local representatives to demand an end to federal harassment of medical cannabis clubs, and a nationwide protest of some 50 DEA and federal offices

(including those in San Francisco and Oakland) took place today (Thursday, June 6).

DEA spokesman Rich Meyer told the Press Democrat that the agency has not made an effort to target medical marijuana clubs. "We have investigated marijuana trafficking groups. As we develop leads, we follow those leads. If one takes us to a marijuana club, then we continue that investigation," said Meyer.

However, the Press Democrat reported this week that recently unsealed federal court documents reveal that federal agents had been observing activity at the Aiko Compassion Center for months, beginning in January. The court records do not indicate that the raid on the club was related to a larger drug trafficking investigation. ▼

HRC benefit for Sharon Smith Monday

by Ed Walsh

The Human Rights Campaign is hosting a major benefit on Monday, June 10, to raise money to help pay for the legal expenses of Sharon Smith, the partner of dog-mauling victim Diane Whipple, in her groundbreaking wrongful death lawsuit against the keepers of the dogs that killed Whipple.

The event will be held in San Francisco at Citizen Cake, 399 Grove Street (at Gough), from 6-9 p.m.

The benefit will be held just days after what is expected to be the final chapter in the trial court phase of the case against Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, the caretakers of the dogs involved in the fatal attack.

On Friday, June 7, a hearing will be held before San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren. He will be asked by defense lawyers to grant the couple a new trial on the grounds that their trial was unfair. If Warren turns down that request, he will sentence the pair to prison terms.

Last Friday, May 31, prosecutors filed papers with the court suggesting that Warren throw the book at the couple. Prosecutors recommend a sentence of 15-years-to-life for Knoller and four years for Noel.

Knoller, who was with her two Presa Canario dogs during the January 26, 2001 attack on Whipple, was convicted of second-degree murder. Both Noel and Knoller were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a person.

Last Friday, prosecutors also filed papers countering defense claims that the couple's trial was unfair.

"While it is true, indeed, that defendant Knoller's murder conviction is unprecedented in California history, all of the convictions in this case are overwhelmingly supported by the evidence presented at trial," prosecutors wrote. "Defendants both acted with callous and utter indifference to human life which resulted in the brutal, needless, suffering and death of Diane Whipple."

Prosecutors blasted a claim by Knoller's attorney that there was

insufficient evidence to support her conviction of second-degree murder.

"Defendant Knoller first makes the unsupported and outrageous claim that a second-degree murder conviction can only be sustained with evidence of a prior death," prosecutors noted. "This boils down to a 'one free death' rule. Defendant's proposition has no supporting authority."

Monday's benefit will include a special live auction including travel, wine, and spa packages along with cakes made especially for the event by some of the Bay Area's best known pastry chefs. Wine, hors d'oeuvres, and sweets will be served. Tickets at the door: \$25 and up. RSVP to: sabrina@provincetownforwomen.com or (415) 553-6251.

More information can be found at: www.provincetownforwomen.com/June10Sharon-SmithBenefit.html

For those who can't attend, donations can be sent to: Sharon Smith Legal Fund Benefit c/o National Center for Lesbian Rights, 870 Market Street, Suite 570, San Francisco, CA 94102. ▼

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav members celebrated at a special 25th anniversary service last Friday, May 31.

Gay synagogue changes to meet needs of its newest members – kids

by Matthew S. Bajko

In the summer of 1977, when three gay men held a service for gay Jews in the basement of Glide Memorial Church, expectations were low for that first service. None of the 40 people who participated could foresee the religious revolution they were starting.

On that day in July 25 years ago the foundation for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was laid. It would prove to be a force for change within Jewish society around the world, successfully lobbying the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to end discrimination against openly gay and lesbian rabbis, and to sponsor a resolution supporting same-sex marriage.

As it celebrates its anniversary, Sha'ar Zahav's groundbreaking work has now entered a new realm, with the congregation the only gay-oriented synagogue in the world to have a religious school for children. And with the addition of children to its fabric, the congregation is once again changing the way Jews, and society in general, view gays and lesbians.

"We never thought we would have children as members. A community is a full and active and enriched community only if it does have children," said Daniel Chesir, who along with Bernard Pechter and Shamir Durst, founded the congregation. "Twenty-five years ago I never thought about it. Now, it feels natural to have children as part of the synagogue.

"We have members who are newborns, and unfortunately, members who die, and everything in between," added Chesir. "Having children represents the fullness of life within our community."

A result mainly of the "gayby" boom of the last decade, the congregation's religious school is now entering its bat mitzvah, or 13th

year. It not only serves to educate congregants' children but also helps the congregation fulfill one of its main obligations.

"It's a Jewish obligation to raise and nurture children. Twenty-five years ago it was hard to imagine that a synagogue created by and for gay and lesbian Jews would be able to fulfill that obligation," said the congregation's out lesbian rabbi, Camille Shira Angel, who recently became a mother herself. "Judaism has made it really clear that to raise is different than to birth. So all of us who are part of this enterprise are in fact raising up a new generation."

The advent of children amongst its members has changed the congregation in profound ways. As more families, gay and straight, filled the congregation's ranks over the years, Sha'ar Zahav moved from a small building on Danvers Street and Caselli Avenue into a new \$2 million building on 16th and Dolores Streets in 1998.

"One of the big changes that has occurred since I initially joined the congregation is we have had an explosion of children within our congregation," said out lesbian Lisa Katz, the congregation's current president and a mother of two girls. "There are now more children members of the congregation than there were members of the congregation 25 years ago. That is a very exciting development."

As these new members mature and start their own families, they are impacting the congregation in other ways. From having teenagers taught to read the Torah now leading services to straight families seeking out the progressive congregation to enroll their kids in its school, Sha'ar Zahav is no longer solely a haven for GLBT Jews.

"Increasingly there are non-GLBT people who are members of the synagogue and their children are members of our school. They value our openness and progres-

sive values," explained Chesir.

The religious school's lessons aim not only to teach Judaism to its pupils, but also to educate in a gay-positive manner.

"We are the first congregation in all of Jewish history to have a queer values curriculum where we're insisting gayness is good for Jews," said Angel. "Kids of all ages are interpreting the traditions in light of their own family truths. They are able to challenge biblical texts that have historically oppressed us. It's pretty amazing to hear kids in the context of a religious setting feel free to ask questions about gender and identity."

Every educator in the religious school has to have a GLBT sensitivity, whether they are gay or straight, explained Ruthy Palansky, chair of the congregation's children education board. And the school has begun this year to include lessons about transgender issues.

"It's a place kids can go and feel being from a gay family is natural, fine, and wonderful," said Palansky.

How this new generation of congregants will impact Sha'ar Zahav over the next 25 years remains to be seen. There is no question though that the synagogue is becoming more diverse.

"We have to assume most children of our gay members won't be gay. There will be increasing numbers of mixed gender couples," said Chesir.

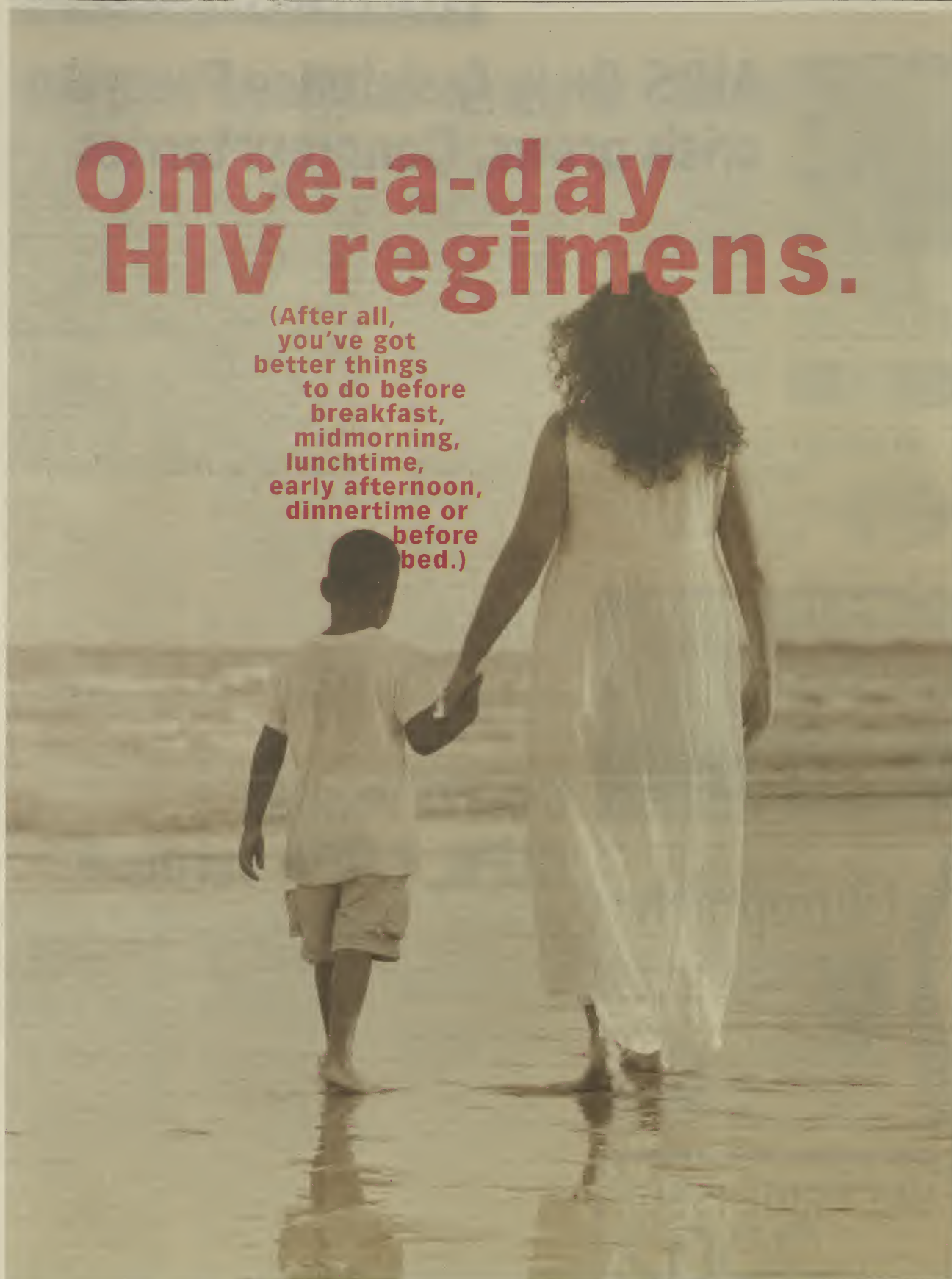
At the same time, Chesir said he doesn't believe the congregation will completely move away from its founding principles.

"We are a progressive synagogue with a particular outreach to the gay community. Our values are such that that is going to remain the focus of the congregation," Chesir said. ▼


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AIDS Drug Assistance Program crisis grows, Congress carries

by Bob Roehr

Problems continue to mount in AIDS Drug Assistance Programs in state after state. At least 10 states already have imposed waiting lists or reduced benefits for the program year that began on April 1.

AIDS advocates say the situation will only get worse unless Congress appropriates an emergency \$82 million supplemental for the program. But that out-

come seems unlikely as one senator after another has declined to take the lead in seeking the additional money.

California appears to have dodged a bullet, at least for the moment, when on May 14 Governor Gray Davis chose to appropriate extra state funds in a tight budget year. However, with some analysts predicting that the state budget deficit will grow to be larger than currently projected, all spending could be reevaluated later in the year.

In Oregon, enrollment in the CareAssist program has increased 88 percent over the last two years, with 20-25 new applications submitted each month. But those were halted on May 17 while officials rework the plan, which likely will mean lowering benefits and tightening eligibility.

The ADAP budget in North Carolina will support 1,514 patients based on what was spent per patient over the last six months. But by the end of April, 1,988 patients were signed up when enrollment was halted, and more than 500 qualified patients are on a growing waiting list. The program needs an additional \$10-12 million just to meet those needs, even if no new patients appear over the next 10 months of the operating year.

The twin pressures of a growing patient population and in-

creases in the prices of drugs could be joined by a third at the end of this year when T-20, a new class of drugs known as entry inhibitors, is likely to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Given the difficulty in making the drug, it is likely to be very expensive, perhaps even more costly than existing drugs.

"We knew that uninsured and underinsured, low-income, HIV-positive Americans would be in trouble as a result of shortfalls in ADAP funding in the last two years. We didn't expect to see quite this many stranded patients so quickly," said Bill Arnold, chair of the coalition ADAP Working Group in Washington, D.C.

The vehicle for the needed money is the emergency supplemental bill that the White House wants to keep at about \$2.7 billion. The House surpassed that figure and the Senate was headed toward a \$4-5 billion figure when the bill was pulled from the floor just before the Memorial Day recess, likely because of the threat of a presidential veto.

Most senators understand the financial problems that ADAP faces and support increased funding, but none seem to be willing to take the lead in doing so on the floor of the Senate. Arnold said the lead really must come from a state experiencing a real emergency.

Senate Appropriations Committee member Patty Murray (D-Washington) said the motion had to come from someone not on the committee. Senator Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) said it had to come from a Democrat, as it will disproportionately benefit larger Democratic states, they control the Senate, and the White House is trying to hold the line on spending.

Arnold said the word from California Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D) office was, "The governor has already fixed the ADAP problem in California," so she could not argue local interest or emergency. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-New York) was saving her ammo for the bigger fish of September 11 aid to New York.

Advocates are now focusing on Senator John Edwards (D-North Carolina), trying to persuade him to lead the ADAP fight.

It is unclear whether the emergency supplemental will pass the Senate this week, or if it will still be pending when AIDSWatch hits town to lobby on June 10.

"To ask a political leader in an election year to spend a chit on a problem that is not yet visible politically, is a very, very tall order," said Arnold. He fears that the crisis will continue to grow "until a state has a waiting list of 2,000 people and 20/20 does a piece on it." ▼

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Courts render CIPA, COPA verdicts

by Liz Highleyman

The month of May saw two important verdicts in cases related to online censorship, and a new challenge to another such law.

On May 31 a panel of three federal judges in Philadelphia overturned the Children's Internet Protection Act, a law that would deny federal funding to public libraries and schools that do not install filters to block Web sites with sexually explicit content.

The American Civil Liberties Union, the American Library Association, and a coalition of library patrons challenged the law, arguing that filtering programs block content that is constitutionally protected for adults. Existing software—such as CyberSitter and SurfWatch—tends both to block some non-pornographic content (such as sex education material and content about homosexuality) and to let some pornographic material through.

The judges agreed with the plaintiffs, stating, "We find that, given the crudeness of filtering technology, any technology protection measure mandated by CIPA will necessarily block access to a substantial amount of speech whose suppression serves no legitimate government interest."

If the federal government appeals the decision, the case will go directly to the Supreme Court.

Earlier last month, on May 13, the Supreme Court handed down

a partial verdict in the case of the 1998 Child Online Protection Act, a similarly-named law also intended to shield children from sexually explicit material. The law would require that operators of Web sites containing such material use credit cards or some other means to verify that users are at least 18 years old.

COPA was challenged by the ACLU and a coalition of 17 plaintiffs including the Electronic Frontier Foundation, PlanetOut Partners, A Different Light Bookstore, Philadelphia Gay News, Good Vibrations, the Sexual Health Network, and Salon.com.

The plaintiffs claimed that COPA would unconstitutionally restrict adult access to online content. They further argued that the law's wording is too vague and that there are no "contemporary community standards" for what constitutes offensive material in cyberspace.

In February 1999 a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction against COPA, saying that the law would "impose a burden on speech that is protected for adults." The federal Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia—which has heard every major Internet censorship case to date—upheld the injunction, agreeing that attempts to apply a community standard to the Internet could potentially result in the "most puritan" communities setting the standard for online content.

The Supreme Court delivered a mixed decision, upholding parts of the law but preventing it from

going into effect due to remaining unresolved issues.

In a divided opinion, the justices said the law's community standards provision does not make the law unconstitutional. Justice John Paul Stevens was the only judge to agree with the appeals court's earlier decision. Said Stevens, "The community that wishes to live without certain material not only rids itself, but the entire Internet of the offending speech."

However, the Supreme Court ruled that other constitutional problems with the law had not yet been resolved by the lower court, including claims that the law is too vague and overly broad. The justices sent the case back to the appeals court for additional review. While the review is under way, the injunction remains in place and the federal government may not enforce the law.

Finally, on May 24, the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom and artist Barbara Nitke filed a motion seeking a preliminary injunction that would prevent the federal government from enforcing the obscenity provisions of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, the first federal attempt to regulate Internet content and a precursor to CIPA and COPA. Although the Supreme Court in 1997 struck down much of the law as an unconstitutional restraint on free speech, the law's obscenity provisions remain in effect. In December 2001 NCSF and Nitke filed a lawsuit in New York City Federal District Court to overturn these provisions. ▼

Egypt's canceled verdicts a mixed bag

by Zak Szymanski

The good news is that 21 Egyptian men convicted of obscenity charges for their alleged homosexuality are expected to be released from prison within the next few weeks.

But recent reports about the fate of Egypt's "Cairo 52" left

many confused about the status of the verdicts in the now-infamous case, where 52 men were arrested last May aboard the Queen Boat discotheque on the Nile. A subsequent trial last November found 23 men guilty and acquitted 29 of the men charged.

Last week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak canceled the verdicts of 50 of the 52 arrested on

debauchery charges related to their alleged homosexuality, drawing praise from some advocates who saw the annulment of the 21 guilty verdicts as a step in the right direction. But Mubarak's decision also effectively canceled the acquittals of 29 men, and confirmed the convictions of two men who are serving hard labor sentences for contempt of religion. What

this means now, according to Sydney Levy, spokesman for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, is that 50 men - including those who thought they had nothing more to worry about - are currently in "legal limbo" and must await a prosecutor's decision on whether to retry their individual cases.

"If Egypt thinks this is a solution to placate an international community, that is not the case," Levy told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Two people remain in jail. Twenty-one people will be freed but may have to be re-tried. And the 29 people who have already been acquitted may have to face yet another trial. Enough is enough."

There remains a very real possibility that Mubarak's canceled verdicts will see a retrial and result in even more convictions than were originally handed down, but Levy said the number of convictions is not the issue.

"Using obscenity charges to prosecute homosexuality is wrong, period. They shouldn't

have been tried in the first place."

Under Egyptian law, homosexuality is not expressly forbidden, but it is often prosecuted under charges like those faced by the Cairo 52. If the 50 men in question should have to face a new trial, it will be in criminal court with the possibility of appeal instead of the repressive, anti-terrorist Emergency State Security Court used last year, as Mubarak's decision stated that debauchery charges do not merit a trial before emergency courts. But even this move to the lower-profile courts has some advocates concerned that homosexuals on trial will now receive less media attention, and Egypt therefore will receive less scrutiny for such trials.

"There continue to be news of arrests in Egypt, and the great majority of these don't have the publicity of the Cairo 52," said Levy. "We're worried about these arrests, and were worried that as the Cairo 52 case enters a new phase, people will think the situation is improving for gays in Egypt when that is not the case." ▼

Sleeping lawyer

◀ page 1

the trial's rampant homophobia, or even whether Burdine was wrongly convicted. The state of Texas was simply asking the high court to hear a case that it had lost in lower courts. The court refused to hear it, thereby leaving in place a federal Court of Appeals ruling that Burdine did not get a fair chance to defend himself due to his nap-happy attorney.

"All along, this case has been a stark illustration of what's wrong with the capital punishment system. While a judge and jury weighed whether Calvin Burdine should live or die, his court-appointed lawyer slept. Rather than seeking a fair trial and ensuring that Burdine have the basic representation our Constitution guarantees, the state of Texas went all the way to the Supreme Court to say that a sleeping lawyer was good enough," said Diann Rust-Tierney, director of the Capital Punishment Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a brief on Burdine's behalf.

"We are pleased that the court declined to intervene in this case.

The court's refusal to hear this case is both an acknowledgment and a reminder that the death penalty system is rife with problems. Life or death decisions should not hinge on whether someone is rich or poor, black or white, or gay or straight. That's what happened in this case, and it happens in countless others."

Burdine's 1984 conviction was overturned three years ago, but a panel of the federal court overturned that ruling in 2000. The same court then agreed to a full hearing, whereupon it agreed that Burdine should be allowed a new trial or set free.

Monday's ruling leaves in place that decision, but Burdine will likely be retried, according to reports, particularly because of incriminating statements he made after his arrest that he later retracted.

"The state of Texas has made it clear," said ACLU spokesman Eric Ferrero, "that they intend to retry him for the murder."

Ferrero also noted that the Supreme Court decision not to hear the case is not a ruling on the merits of the case, and that "the question of whether a sleeping lawyer is a bad thing remains unaddressed." ▼

SF budget

◀ page 4

abuse programs, will not fill vacant positions at clinics around the city, will not hire more nurses for Laguna Honda as DPH had planned, and will restrict where patients may pick up prescription drugs.

The mayor's \$4.9 billion budget plan, presented to the Board of Supervisors on Monday June 3, is based on a potential shortfall of \$175 million, a result, the mayor said, of the "downturn in the high-tech economy" and increasing costs.

To close that gap, the mayor's budget office implemented some one-time cuts by selling surplus city property, reducing the reserve to pay the state its share of San Francisco's property taxes and finding alternate financing for some city projects.

Although the city's budget has nearly doubled since he took office, Brown said, "A lot of these were one-time fixes. Next year we won't be able to do that."

For the "first time I can remember," said the mayor's director of finance Ben Rosenfield, the mayor enlisted the help of Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano in balancing the budget. According to Brown, city workers have had pay increases totaling \$380 million since he took office. Ammiano helped negotiate a \$17 million cut to city workers' pension fund contributions.

According to the mayor, the city's new budget does not provide reserves for potential cuts to state and federal funding. Last month, Governor Gray Davis proposed cuts to the state budget that would reduce funding to the DPH by about \$4 million. ▼

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Foster care and TGs

by Sarah Colby, LGBTQ
Youth Project Attorney

The following is an occasional column compiled by the Transgender Law Project that answers basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and genderqueer communities.

Q. My partner and I recently attended an informational meeting on becoming foster parents. During the question and answer period, we asked whether we would face any problems in becoming a foster care family since my partner is transgender. The presenter became very flustered and said that she didn't really think transgender people could become foster care providers. Is this true?

A. No. That statement is not true. I'm sorry that you were given incorrect and insulting information and discouraged from becoming a licensed foster family. No state or local jurisdiction in California prohibits anyone from becoming a foster care provider based either on the person's gender identity or sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, this doesn't mean that the system is free from discrimination. The foster care certification process gives some amount of discretion to the government agency doing the certifying. This discretion, which creates room for bias and lack of knowledge, can affect a certification. While discrimination based either on gender identity or sexual orientation is unethical and unlawful, and likely illegal, many child welfare personnel – as you have seen – do not know this. It would therefore be naive to assume that the process is free of discrimination, whether intentional or not.

Potential foster care providers can be discriminated against in a number of ways. In your case, you were discouraged from applying for the program. Other people are deemed not to be suitable placements for youth based on false stereotypes and misinformation about LGBT people based solely on their gender identity or sexual orientation. And, while it is rare, it is not unheard of that a foster care provider will have a youth removed from a foster care provider's home when it's discovered that the provider is transgender and/or lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Unfortunately, foster care providers are not the only victims of this discrimination. Several recent studies have concluded that youth in the foster care system often face harassment or discrimination based on their gender identity or their sexual orientation.

For example, several child welfare administrators in California have claimed that they've never met a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth, and report that none has ever been under their care. In some areas, LGBTQ youth are warehoused in psychiatric facilities, because no group homes or foster homes will accept them. Reports have even surfaced that some foster parents have required LGBTQ youth to participate in reparative therapy in a misguided attempt to change their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In my experience and that of colleagues, even well-meaning social workers and other youth welfare professionals can unintentionally put LGBTQ youth in harmful or dangerous situations. For instance, one social worker required that a young person participate in therapy without investigating the attitudes or experience of the therapist, who turned out to be transphobic. In another situation, a sympathetic intake worker made assumptions about a youth's sexual identity and disclosed the information to staff and other youth without the young person's consent.

In addition to these institutional problems, LGBTQ youth are often subjected to a constant stream of homophobic or transphobic comments by other youth in group homes or foster care placements. Often, these harassing comments are so common that the group home administrators, staff, or foster care providers don't bother to prevent them, thinking instead that the comments are just "kids being kids."

Unfortunately, as you recently found out, some of the best people to provide stable homes for LGBTQ youth – LGBT adults – are sometimes discouraged from doing so. The good news is that several initiatives around the state have been or are being created to address problems faced by LGBT people in the foster care system.

One of the oldest such initiatives is Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services in Los Angeles. GLASS assists LGBTQ foster youth in L.A. by placing them with culturally competent group homes and foster families. GLASS provides a number of other services to youth, including job training, primary health care, and group and independent living spaces. GLASS' efforts have been so successful that the organization plans to expand its service area to include San Francisco.

Later this year, GLASS will

open a foster care agency in San Francisco. Over time, they plan to expand operations to replicate many of the other services that they currently provide in Los Angeles. If you would like more information about GLASS or would like to help the expansion effort, you can reach them at (310) 358-8727 or check out the Web site at www.glassla.org.

Around the same time GLASS plans to begin initial operations in San Francisco, a new bill will be making its way through the Assembly in Sacramento. Assemblywoman Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), has proposed a bill (AB2651) that will require the California Department of Social Services to adopt a clear anti-discrimination statement in reference to LGBT foster youth and parents.

In her bill, Chu cites a Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund report detailing the need for such a statement. The report, "Youth in the Margins," can be found on Lambda's Web site at www.lambdalegal.org. The report recommends the addition of anti-discrimination language to all state child welfare statutes as one tool for ending homophobia and transphobia in the foster care system. If you would like to help Chu work on passing AB265, you can contact her office at (916) 319-2049 or e-mail her staff member, Anita Garcia, at anita.garcia@asm.ca.gov.

Getting such legislation passed is an important first step in fighting discrimination and harassment. However, the work does not end there. The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services has an anti-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. In August 2000, a group of juvenile court judges, attorneys, social workers, educators, and youth activists formed the Task Force to End Homophobia to give this policy meaning.

Last year, the task force recommended that the department take several steps to improve the services it provides to LGBTQ youth. Their recommendations included asking the department to fully implement its non-discrimination policy by helping LGBTQ youth more easily identify themselves and more quickly resolve instances of harassment or discrimination. In addition, the task force asked that department employees receive additional training in how to better protect and serve LGBTQ youth. Currently, the department is working to implement the task

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OBITUARIES

Jerome Lawrence Friedman
1960 — 2002

Jerry was born July 17, 1960 in Ogallala, Nebraska. He received his BA from Northeastern University, his MS from Gallaudet University, and was a Ph.D. candidate at UC Berkeley/SFSU. Until his retirement, Jerry was the Director of Audiology for the Hearing Society.

Jerry's alter ego, Vassy, strutted across the boards as a founding member of the Kinsey Sicks. Vassy's dulcet tones can be heard on the group's recordings of "Proud Marys," "Life-size Jesus," and "I Will Swallow Him."

Jerry was preceded in death by his partner, Abbatto Avilez, and siblings John and Shirley, and niece Rachel. He is survived by his parents, Celia Shook and Harold Friedman; sisters Mary Kathryn Hagge and Suzanne Stephens; brothers Joe and Jim Friedman; ten nieces and nephews; and many loving friends.

Jerry's good looks attracted attention, but his sense of humor, commitment to social justice and love for life made people love him.

Jerry died on May 17, 2002 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Services were held May 20 in Angleton, Texas. A celebration of Jerry's

life will be held June 15th in San Francisco. Call 415-824-7707 for information. The family suggests contributions to UN Medical Center HIV Clinic in Omaha.

Gladys Hongisto

Gladys Hongisto, 88, a San Francisco resident from 1942 to 1999, passed away Saturday, May 25, in Walnut Creek. She was born Marian Gladys Longrie on August 3, 1913 in Lena, Wisconsin, the fourth child of Victor J. Longrie and Lulu Rousseau. When she was three years old, her family moved to Minnesota, where she was raised. She married Raymond R. Hongisto in 1932 and ten years later, Gladys, Raymond and their two sons moved to San Francisco.

Gladys worked for the California Inspection Rating Bureau and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, and was a past member of the Sunset Community Club. She was ranked a Universal Life Master bridge player and was a dedicated political worker. She enjoyed stamp collecting, knitting, and crossword puzzles, as well as watching San Francisco Giants' and 49ers' games.

Her husband Raymond and a newborn son preceded her in death. She is survived by two sons, Donald Hongisto of Berkeley, and Richard Hongisto of San Francisco, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and one sister, Evelyn Line of Minnesota.

Grandchildren are: Sonja Hongisto Bowman, Walnut Creek, Eric Hongisto,

Madrid, Spain, Kirsten Hongisto, Washington D.C., RJ Hongisto, San Francisco, and Ashley Hongisto, New York.

A celebration of her life will be hosted by her son Richard Hongisto at Alfred's Steak House, 659 Merchant Street in San Francisco on Friday, June 7th from 7:00—9:00 PM. Friends of the Hongisto family are welcome to attend. For more information call Richard Hongisto at (415) 602-3131.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Pallotta

◀ page 1

decision to drop AIDS Ride grew out of a reevaluation of their total fundraising effort. Currently, 60 percent of their privately raised money comes from just three large events. "We don't think that is a healthy ratio," he said. "We want to diversify the ways that we raise private money." Thus, they have decided not to participate in the Food and Friends bicycle event.

Both organizations are biting their nails about the scheduled June ride. About 1,900 people have registered to ride, as compared with last year's all-time high of 3,200 registrants. Cover said that in most years, about a third of registrants don't show up. He has no idea if this year's registrants reflect that historic pattern, or if they are the hard core of riders and are more likely to participate in the event.

Last year the AIDS Ride added \$1.7 million to Whitman-Walker's coffers. But uncertainty over participation and revenue has contributed to the clinic reducing its current budget from \$28 million to about \$25.5 million.

\$10 million question

Eve Jaffe, 31, was riding in the 2000 Washington AIDS Ride

when, on June 22, she complained of dizziness and nausea. Ride medical personnel continued to intravenously administer fluids to her even while she vomited clear liquid. Her blood pressure dropped, she collapsed and was rushed by ambulance to a hospital. She died the following day.

Jaffe's parents and brothers filed a lawsuit on May 30, nearly two years after Eve Jaffe's death, alleging negligence on the part of

Jaffes' view Pallotta as "the entity that set this up, organized the staffing and the medical services, so the focus is on Pallotta." Taglieri said they have no present plans of including either Whitman-Walker or Food and Friends in the suit.

Pallotta Teamworks spokeswoman Janna Sidley said that they have not seen the suit and are not in a position to comment on it. She reiterated condolences

"But there is also an issue of whether the ride itself was staffed appropriately and whether the appropriate equipment was on hand."

Pallotta Teamworks. The lawsuit seeks compensation totaling \$10 million.

James W. Taglieri, an attorney representing the Jaffe family, said the primary issues of the case are "misdiagnosis and improper care. But there is also an issue of whether the ride itself was staffed appropriately and whether the appropriate equipment was on hand."

He said, "It took some time to get all of the records, get them reviewed, and work our way through various legal issues." The

to the Jaffe family and stated that the organization has "an extraordinary safety record" with AIDS Rides.

Wayne Turner, with ACT UP/D.C., "Saluted the courage of Rochelle Jaffe in her demand for accountability from Pallotta Teamworks, in the tragic and needless death of her daughter Eve." He added, "Rider safety is just one of our many concerns with Pallotta's AIDS Rides."

Most of these types of cases are resolved within a year and often are settled without a trial. ▼

Foster care, TGs

◀ previous page

force's recommendations.

Local recommendations such as these should serve as a model for foster care programs throughout the nation. The agency for which I work, Legal Services for Children, has recently partnered with the National Center for Lesbian Rights to study such programs from around the country in order to create nationwide standards of care for LGBTQ youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

While describing the particulars of the juvenile justice system is beyond the scope of this column, the level of harassment and discrimination experienced by LGBTQ youth in that system is as severe and pervasive, if not more so, than in the foster care system. By combining our efforts to address both systems at once, LSC and NCLR will be able to significantly impact the lives of all youth

who are in state care.


Over the next two years, our organizations will convene meetings around the country with LGBTQ youth who are or have been involved in either system. At the same time, we'll be meeting with youth care professionals to discuss legal and social science research on the issue. The end product of these meetings will be draft guidelines that will then be reviewed and critiqued by local professionals. Once the final guidelines have been created, they will be available to youth and their allies as tools in making their local systems more responsive to the needs of the LGBTQ youth in their care.

In addition, both LSC and NCLR provide legal advice and assistance to people facing discrimination. If you know someone who has experienced gender identity or sexual orientation discrimination or harassment in the foster care system, you can contact our organizations for legal advice and assistance. Youth should contact LSC at (415) 863-3762. Potential or current foster care

providers should contact NCLR at (415) 392-6257.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

The Transgender Law Project is co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Pride Law Fund. If you have questions about gender identity discrimination or are a transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and/or genderqueer person with other legal questions, please feel free to contact the project's coordinator and Tom Steel Fellow, Chris Daley, at (415) 392-6257 ext. 308 or e-mail daley@nclrights.org. You can request a Spanish-language pamphlet containing this same information by contacting the Transgender Law Project.



"VASSY"
Jerry Friedman
1960-2002

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I like Spike

by Jim Provenzano

As World Cup soccer mania sweeps most parts of the world, here in the Bay Area, the San Francisco Spikes have been accumulating a series of victories that may assure their medal status in Sydney at Gay Games VI.

But even if their trek down under proves to be more about the joy of international communion, they've already won by maintaining their status as one of the longest running gay-inclusive teams around.

Over Memorial Day weekend, the Spikes joined Dallas, Atlanta, New York, and Team Americas at the Armory Sports Classic in Atlanta.

They played a round robin format the first day, with each team playing each of the other four teams in games that were shorter than normal. That set up the semi-finals the next day.

"We started out very well, unexpectedly pounding Atlanta 5-0 in a game where all the balls bounced our way," said Patrick Johnson of the Spikes. "We played well enough, but Atlanta didn't, and luck was in our favor. Still, it was a nice way to start out the tournament, and 'luck' tends to follow the team that wants it more, so we deserve credit for the win."

The Team Americas match "was a fairly rough game, although the ref called virtually all the fouls against them," said Johnson. "It was pretty even, although from my biased viewpoint, I felt like we had better chances than they did."

The Spikes played New York next and peppered their goal with shots, but couldn't seem to put one in. "I felt we controlled this game well, but could only manage a 0-0 tie," Johnson said.

The already exhausted Dallas team, having played four matches earlier, lost by several points. The Spikes placed second among the five teams, with two wins, a loss, and a tie.

Day two started with a semifinal against Atlanta, whose playing had improved markedly after the Spikes defeated them in game one. "We put in one, and they answered on a penalty kick," said Johnson.

Matt Shambroom knocked in the game-winner on a shot to the upper far corner on what his coaches considered one of the best goals in the team's recent history.

The big loss in the game came



Atlanta burnin': The Spikes invade the South.

when Karl Myrvold, their player/coach, broke his shin bone in two places in a collision. His non-displaced fracture should heal in six to eight weeks.

The final against Team Americas was the expected war of attrition as two very tired teams traded punches for 90 minutes.

"The refs' calls seemed to be very much against us in this game as we received several yellow cards," said Johnson.

"We put in a goal in the first half and held them off. They attacked a bit more than we did in the second half, but apart from just a couple of defensive breakdowns, their attacks amounted to only a handful of quality chances, mostly on free kicks outside the box that they did little with."

"We earned the victory and the big tacky trophy with our determination and grit," said Johnson. "Even the thunderstorm before the final couldn't cool us off as we powered our way to the championship. We brought a cohesive and talented 15-man team that really gelled well."

The Spikes go to one or two tournaments a year and haven't finished behind any other American team in any of these tournaments in more than four years.

While some team members came to enjoy soccer only recently, for Shambroom, it's been a lifelong activity.

"I think I was 7 when I first laced up my cleats," said Shambroom, who grew up playing soccer in Chappaqua, New York.

As an adult, "Being out has had little effect on my athletic life," he said. "Since coming out at 20, I've played on a number of primarily straight soccer teams - both in college in New York, and in San Francisco - all without any problems. Unfortunately, I know not everyone is as lucky."

Who is he rooting for in the World Cup?

"My money's on Italy to win the cup, but my heart is with the U.S. team," said Shambroom. "I've always been a hometown fan. Gotta root for the U.S. team."

Kit off it

To many, soccer is a sexy sport, or at least the players are sexy. Handsome British star David Beckham seems to enjoy flirting with it through his extensive modeling exploits, and members of the Italian team posed nude in the European *Cosmopolitan*.

A few South American soccer stars have posed fully nude in the gay Brazilian *G* magazine, but aren't gay. And the time-honored ritual of fans stripping players after a victory may be the most homoerotic act in sports, yet no

gay player has come out.

"I think it would be easier for a player to come out here," Shambroom said. "In this country, soccer doesn't have quite the media spotlight as other sports. But in Europe or South America, I think stars would find it as difficult as NBA or NFL stars here."

In the meantime, openly gay soccer stars who keep their uniforms on - at least on-field - will suffice.

The Spikes practice on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. at either Franklin Square or the Beach Chalet fields. As a fundraiser, they will be working at the Smirnoff booth at the Pride festival on both Saturday and Sunday.

Visit them there, or online at www.geocities.com/socialspike/

Lend me an ear and I'll sing you a song

Lennox Lewis was cheered by gay and feminist supporters as he paraded through the streets of Memphis last week. They were rooting for Lewis to "knock out Mike Tyson, the homophobe and sexist."

The two fighters battle for the world heavyweight boxing crown at the Pyramid Arena in Memphis this Saturday, June 8.

Members of an ad hoc coalition of local women's and gay groups joined 2,000 well-wishers

who surrounded Lewis on Memphis' historic Beale Street.

The target of anti-gay taunts from previous opponents, Lewis responded to the group's support with smiles and waves.

The action was the first of five protests planned against Tyson before his world title fight with Lewis. The Memphis protests are being coordinated by British human rights activist Peter Tatchell.

"Tyson's repeated homophobic insults are unacceptable in boxing or any other sport," Tatchell told the Associated Press. "We want Tyson to stop his anti-gay taunts and sexist jibes. His bigoted attitudes incite violence against women and gays."

To say nothing of his occasional bouts of cannibalism.

But Tyson allayed protesters when he hugged a demonstrator Sunday.

"He just came up and hugged me and said he wasn't homophobic," Jim Maynard, one of three demonstrators, told AP.

"I didn't really know what to do," he said. "So I just posed with him and smiled for the cameras. It's a step in the right direction."

Tyson signed autographs for a dozen people and then went inside for his workout. Upon returning to his car after his training, Tyson is quoted as saying, "I'm not homophobic; I told them I'm not homophobic. So if I use a homophobic term ... I'm not homophobic."

That's an earful.

Smells like teen spiritual

What more wholesome combination could there be than priests and teenage wrestlers? Maybe if it's a *Bowery Boys* movie.

These days, it's more about Web sites and pile drivers. Toss in a little nonprofit scam and some salacious action-packed videos, and you've got more holes than holiness.

A Web site run by a Roman Catholic priest in Pennsylvania that sold videos of bare-chested teenage boys wrestling, supposedly to raise funds for a severely injured

next page ►

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GAY RUGBY!

The Bingham Cup is the world championship of gay rugby, and it's coming to San Francisco for Pride Weekend 2002

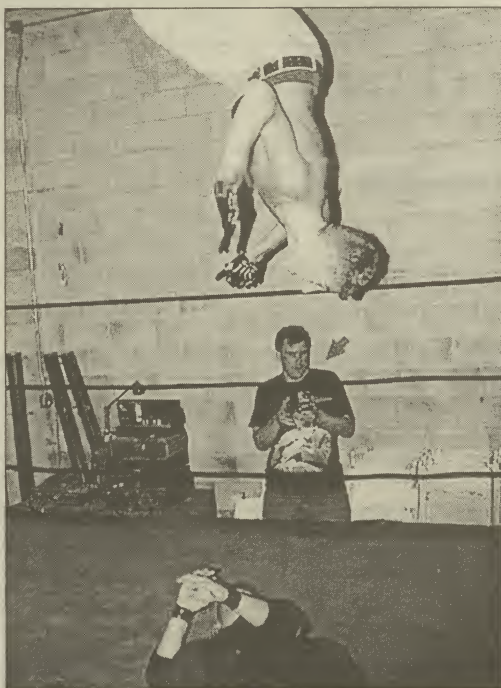
- ◆ Featuring 8 teams - over 200 gay rugby players - from the U.S., England, and the Southern Hemisphere!
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Parochial piledrive: Teen flies, Father sighs (Davidowich in background).

Doin' the jitterbug



Dane Whitaker, left, and Margie Winn jitterbugged the night away Saturday, May 25 at the Queer Jitterbugs' USO Swing Show at the LGBT Community Center. This dance party, one of Queer Jitterbugs' monthly dances, also included a uniform contest, shim-sham lessons, and a tap dance show. Dances are open to all ages. For more information, call (415) 305-8242 or visit www.queerjitterbugs.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

Chelsea being helped by **Ian Klaus** into the car and the *Daily Mail* reported that Ms. Clinton first tried to leave the chic club around 3 a.m. with a coat over her head, then lost control as she stumbled and was helped by Klaus and other friends into the car. Tsk, tsk.

Jesse Helms' followers will want to know that the North Carolina Republican senator is reportedly "doing as well as he has been over the past five weeks" following his recent heart surgery to replace a worn-out pig (sic) valve that was first placed 10 years ago. The 80-year-old homophobic Helms is reportedly undergoing physical therapy in a cardiac rehab center and won't be back to the Senate for an "extended period."

Meanwhile, in Charleston, South Carolina, after negotiations, a gay and lesbian advocacy group has finally posted its message on a billboard along Interstate 26. **Warren Gross**, executive director of Alliance for Full Acceptance,

said the billboard owners first considered the message too aggressive. The message: "We are your neighbors and we are gay" appears with a photograph of five locals.

In Vermont, **Ed Flanagan**, the openly gay former state auditor who lost a U.S. Senate bid in 2000, is locked in a September primary race for the state treasurer nomination with another Democrat; to date, no Republican has filed for the contest.

He's certainly not going to win, but Green Party gubernatorial candidate **Peter Camejo** is the only candidate for governor who advocates both legalizing gay marriage and banning the death penalty.

GOP supporters say that as soon as the November election is over, Representative **Doug Ose** (R-Sacramento) will get his campaign under way to unseat Senator **Barbara Boxer** in 2004. Ose, a millionaire, lost a similar GOP primary contest to **Matt Fong** in 1998. Other Republicans looking at taking on Democrat Boxer include House members **Mary**

Bono (Palm Springs), **Christopher Cox** (Newport Beach), and **Darrell Issa** (Vista).

The state Assembly rejected last week what some were calling the "silly bill of the century," AB2115, authored by lesbian Assemblywoman **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles), that would have made California the first state in the nation to prohibit public schools or mascots from being named after American Indian tribes. Goldberg received only 29 votes for the plan as opposed to 35 who voted against it. Dozens of schools statewide have Indian-related named campuses, teams, or mascots. And, they Assemblywoman, what about the Golden State Warriors? Goldberg contends that use of tribal names by public schools is offensive and contrary to the state's obligation to provide an equal education for all. I call it political correctness run amok.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

jured Orange County man, was closed down voluntarily last week.

A similar site started by a former Orange County priest shut down last year.

Proceeds were supposed to help Tomas Mejia of Lake Forest, but the man's family said they have received no charitable funds during the last several years.

A director of one of the groups running a Web site said the materials on the site are an innocent spoof of wrestling, and the group has sent money regularly for the Mejia family.

An initial fund to help the family was set up in 1994 by Father James Curran, who worked in the Diocese of Orange County. Tomas Mejia, a former prep star at El Toro High School, was paralyzed and suffered severe brain damage in a 1994 traffic accident.

Glenn Michael Davidowich, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania, founded the Junior Professional Wrestling Association in 1999. In filings seeking nonprofit

status, he said the purpose was to help pay medical bills for Mejia by selling videotapes of the teen bouts.

With nicknames as "Corporal Punishment" and "Johnny Heartbreaker," teenage boys slammed and headlocked each other into submission, all in good Catholic fun.

But with titles like *Back-to-School Bash*, *Heat Stroke 2*, and *Cabin Fever 2*, some shot in a church rectory, the videos, which sold for \$20 apiece, sound more like auction items on *Naughty-bids.com*.

Although Davidowich sent Curran "one or two checks" totaling about \$1,500, Curran severed fundraising ties with the wrestling organization several years ago after viewing its Web site.

Curran, now an associate pastor at a church in Stone Mountain, Georgia, listed himself as owner of Con Ganas Sports Entertainment in 1999 fictitious-business-name statements, and gave, as an address, St. Joseph Church in Placentia, where he was an associate pastor. *Con ganas* is Spanish for "with desire" or "with enthusiasm."

A diocesan spokeswoman said

the church had no knowledge of Curran's business and wouldn't have allowed it if it had.

Mejias's mother said that she had never heard of any wrestling associations designed to raise money for Tomas and hasn't received a check from any group for years.

Davidowich allowed wrestling matches to be taped on St. Michael's property during the summer of 2000. He resigned from the wrestling association after meeting with his bishop in February 2001. Still, he was featured prominently on its Web site up until it closed last week, and he was listed until recently as the nonprofit's director.

The site has been criticized by Davidowich's parishioners as sexually suggestive and unseemly for a church-connected organization. The wrestlers are scantily dressed, some of them in dog collars and chains.

Wrestling with the angel

Speaking of kinky Catholic teenage wrestlers, the stage adaptation of my novel *PINS* will mark its world premiere at New Conservatory Theatre Center, August 14-October 13. Call (415) 861-8972 to order tickets. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 257540

The following person(s) are doing business as: Arra Medical Billing Services, 727 Dartmouth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Freddy Rodriguez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257547

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bidet Kit, 1930 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Latora Salvatore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257544

The following person(s) are doing business as: J. Fregosi & Son, 4834 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kevin Odlozil. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 8, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257589

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rocker Guitars, Sporty's Adult Video, 1350 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 9, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257919

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shamrock Real Estate Company 630 Taraval Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Bernadette Naughton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002.

MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257926

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shamrock Development Company, Shamrock Real Estate & Development Company 630 Taraval Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Bernadette Naughton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002.

MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540296

In the Matter of the Application of Regina Dawn Hubbard for change of Name. The application of Regina Dawn Hubbard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald David Stinnett has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Starlight. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257609

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hutchins Construction Company, 42 Guttenberg Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sheila Hutchins. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002.

MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicant is Citizen Cake Partners L PSHIP. The applicant listed above is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, California 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 399 Grove Street, San Francisco, California 94102.

47-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE

DATE: MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257905

The following person(s) are doing business as: SFinterlink, 3901-18th Street Commercial Property, 3903A-18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mari Tomiyama. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/2002.

MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257867

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hot House Entertainment Inc., Trust Magazine San Francisco, 460 Grove Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Steven Scarborough. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 01/1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/21/2002.

MAY 30, JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 235303

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Bay Boogie, Josh-Wash Located at: 2269 Chestnut Street #431, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 4, 1999. This business was conducted by: a individual: Joshua M. O'Hara.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257698

The following person(s) are doing business as: Antique Enterprises, LLC, 325 9th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Robert McCartyne. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/14/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257630

The following person(s) are doing business as: Powerhousegym.com, 2546 3rd Street, #6, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Jon Woolsey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/13/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540289

In the Matter of the Application of Ronald David Stinnett. For change of Name. The application of Ronald David Stinnett for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald David Stinnett has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Starlight. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257568

The following person(s) are doing business as: Isis Management Group, 398 11th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Deborah Christian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 26, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2002.

MAY 16, 23, 30, JUNE 6, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257474

The following person(s) are doing business as: Artique Galleria/ Artique, 1263 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Louis Camacho. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2002.

MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257739

The following person(s) are doing business as: 3rd Rail LLC, 59 Vicksburg Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Christian J. Whips, principal member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 05, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2002.

MAY 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

Come participate in the Brown Bag Lunch Talks at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (Second Floor), Third Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. There will be 15 minutes of general discussion and questions before each topic.

The topic for June 20 is: Safety in Housing: Mold and Mildew Reduction Control

Speakers: Health Department staff; Pat McKenzie of DBI Housing Inspection Division staff.
NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials handed out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence M. Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at 558-6205 for further information.

CITYWATCH: SAN FRANCISCO GOVERNMENT CABLE CHANNEL 26

During the month of June, tune in to CityWatch, San Francisco Government Cable Channel 26 for exciting special programming.

San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission Hearing (LAFCO)

Interested in hearing discussion of public vs. private ownership of power facilities & energy services. Tune into CityWatch Monday, June 17 2002 at 6:30 PM for a LIVE cablecast of the S.F. Local Agency Formation Commission's hearing on the First Draft of the Consultants Energy Services Study. This meeting will replay Wednesday, June 19 at 9:30 AM.

Board of Supervisors Budget Committee Hearings

The Budget committee will convene special hearings.

Departmental Budget Hearings: June 18-20 at 1 PM

Public Comment on the Budget: Live on CityWatch, June 22 at 10 AM

Budget Review Hearings: June 25-27 at 1 PM

Check the website at www.sfgov.org/citywatch or call CITYWATCH at (415)-557-4293 for a schedule of live cablecasts and repeat playback times.

View Live coverage of the Board of Supervisors meetings, Commissions, Council meetings and special events on CITYWATCH, San Francisco Government Cable Channel 26.

CITYWATCH may also be viewed online: www.sfgov.org/citywatch/. Check the website for the current program schedule, or turn to Cable Channel 26 and view on-air program schedules on the hour, and the half-hour. You may also call the CITYWATCH hotline at (415) 557-4293, to hear a recording of live cable cast and repeat playback times.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City & County of San Francisco will be hiring for the position of Contract Compliance Officer II in the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. The office administers and enforces prevailing wage and other labor standards requirements for City funded public works construction contracts. Applications are available at 44 Gough Street and are due by June 14, 2002. For more information, see the employment listing for the Office of Contract Administration on the City's website www.ci.sf.ca.us

SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY

SOLICITATION NO. 02-000-REP-025. To provide construction cost estimating services on an as-needed basis for the San Francisco Housing Authority.

For more detail regarding this solicitation, please log onto the SFHA's website <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfha/procurement/current.htm> or submit your request to Gerald Leroy by FAX (415) 554-1258 or email leroy@sfha.org.

STATEMENT FILE 257523

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Francis Fountain, St. Francis Fountain Restaurant, 2801 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Levon Kazarian, principal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 08, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2002. JUNE 23, 30, JUNE 6, 13, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258004

The following person(s) are doing business as: California State Funding Group, 767 Panorama Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Pamela Camarre, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO: 256788

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Specialty Merchandise Distributor. Located at: 9 Apollo Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 11, 2002. This business was conducted by: a Individual: Peter K. Lee. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257993

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Dog And A Duck, Distance From Here, 570 Arkansas Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joel J. Bosch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 20, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257998

The following person(s) are doing business as: Healthcare Supply Chain Solutions, 3338 17th Street #208, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Houston Cunningham. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258006

The following person(s) are doing business as: J. Mermat Associates, #8 Santa Barbara Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jay Mermat. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/28/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258049

The following person(s) are doing business as: ChungDesign, 27 Riverton Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kenny Chung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 29, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/29/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258166

The following person(s) are doing business as: Squat & Gobble Cafe #4, 1 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Issa Sweidan, managing member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on June 3, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/03/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: PF Phan Restaurant Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 475 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. Type of license Applied for: 47-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257496

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fun & Save, 27 Granada Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robin Ng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 7, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2002. JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, 2002

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Food Service Specialist: creative and experienced cook with demonstrated ability to plan and prepare nutritious meals and snacks for populations with special needs. Main responsibility will be coordinating meals for the residents of the Assisted Care Facility. Plan menus one month in advance and keep on file. Resourceful in maintaining and creating community contacts to supplement budgeted food allowances. Maintain kitchen equipment and supplies. Prepare special meals or snacks for very ill residents with special needs as instructed. \$31 - 33K DOE.

Employment Technology Specialist: Bachelors Degree in related field (education, social work, psychology). High-energy, detail-oriented individual with strong interest in working with homeless and runaway youth. Work within and to expand current computer curriculum. Help youth increase skills essential for securing employment. Program support within Hire Up: education and employment services portion of the LSYS continuum. Strong technical skills with MS Office. Ability to trouble-shoot computers. Bilingual Spanish/English preferred. \$31 - 34K DOE.

Case Manager: provide casework services to high-risk youth who have been abused, are at risk for, or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Responsibilities: intake and assessment; case planning and contracting; individual, family and group counseling; resource brokerage and referral, case coordination and advocacy; financial assistance services; follow-up and aftercare, as needed. MSW or MA in related field required. Minimum of two years experience working with high-risk youth, especially in the area of child abuse. Ability to provide HIV education, prevention, as well as substance abuse, counseling. Bilingual in English and Spanish preferred. \$40 - 43K DOE.

Counselor: provide guidance, information, and services within the agency's mission and goals, to homeless and runaway youth who have been abused, are at risk for or have HIV, and/or are involved in substance abuse. Maintain a safe and supportive multi-cultural environment. Ability to work with, and relate to, diverse high-risk adolescents and young adults who are living on the streets. Motivate clients to explore and accept alternatives to street life. Plan and implement educational programs and activities for youth and monitor their outcomes. Overnight, evening, and weekend shifts required. Valid CA Driver's License required. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus. \$28K.

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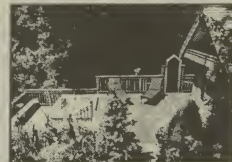
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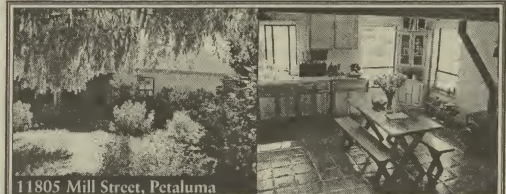


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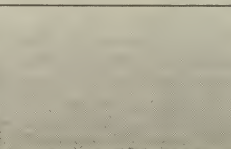
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Looking beyond the blockbusters
'Film Clips' reviews three movies out this
month: 'The Believer,' 'Promises,' 'CQ.'
page 30

McGegan's SFO debut
Handel's 'Giulio Cesare' a
highlight of summer opera.
page 28



Russians are coming
MTT, SF Symphony's
Russian Festival nears.
page 29



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 23 • 6 June 2002

GOODE ENOUGH FOR MYTH

Joe Goode Performance Group at
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

by Michael Wade Simpson

Joe Goode would never be so obvious as to choreograph a September 11 piece. Instead, he comes at you obliquely — from Montana, in this case — offering you myth, love and hope, out of fire, rain and disaster. No, his new work, *Mythic, Montana*, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts through June 9, is not about September 11, but it gives you everything you need in order to grieve those events through a work of art. Goode's approach to the world, this "big mess," like everything he does, subverts expectations and delivers moments that are profoundly satisfying — as theater, as comedy, as dance.

Goode's delivery of art always comes with a wink. You may think you're in for another evening of typical San Francisco modern dance, with its circus gymnastics and search for a voice, but no. His "Performance Group" is really that, a high-tech neo-vaudeville of comedy, acting and singing, not dance with awkward spells of talk. And, wink wink, he may walk onstage and weave a story about the futility of love, but then he goes about creating a piece that ends nearly dripping in romantic beauty. Go figure.

Mark Morris may have glory and riches as America's modern-dance master of the age, but in a country that you would think would be able to accommodate more than one genius at a time, Goode manages to steal from Morris, to play his game, and to better him at it, on some levels. In *Mythic, Montana*, Goode has managed to jam the stage at Yerba Buena, Morris-like, with running, jumping, leaping dancers going every which way, in wild, glorious movement.

His chorus is low-budget, full of student dancers from UC Berkeley, where he is now a faculty member. But they look confident and expressive, and he uses their youth and energy well. The effect of a mass unison or a perfectly synchronized handstand performed by 14 is quite spectacular, and new for Goode,
page 40 ►

Marc Morozumi, a member of Joe Goode Performance Group, in *Mythic, Montana*, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts through June 9.

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by Roberto Friedman and Fanny Aficionado

Counting the days along with Out There 'til next Thursday, June 13, when the 26th SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Fest kicks off with two bangs? We just couldn't wait, so we walked across 9th St. and nosed around Frameline's offices. We're big supporters (athletic or otherwise) of what fest co-director Michael Lumpkin calls "our bold experiment" in expanding the length of this year's run and streamlining the venues. At the Castro, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Herbst, there's less chance of sell-outs, that perennial festival lament. By the time you had six shorts' filmmakers, their parents and their playmates at a Roxie showing (not to mention passholders), there was no room for the general public. Don't get us wrong, we love going to movies at the Roxie, but the Frameline Fest has outgrown it.

Use of the Civic Center venue also acknowledges that not all gay people live in the Castro or the Mission (we are, in fact, everywhere). Then there's the fun factoid that eternal First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (one of us!) attended the historic signing of the UN Charter there. You can see her looking charismatic in the mural on the house's back wall.

The dueling opening-night choices, Stanley Kwan's *Lan Yu* at the Castro, and Margaret Cho's second concert film, *Notorious C.H.O.* at the Herbst, reflect the big story so far of the 26th Fest, the big-time presence of Asian and Asian-American filmmakers and subjects. Fest co-director Jennifer Morris says the huge influx of queer films from all parts of Asia reflects the incredible ferment going on there right now. This year's lineup includes no fewer than four features from China, and three from Korea.

Plenty that's new in this year's edition, like *Fun in Drag Shorts*; and a series of films centering on faith in queer lives, docs and features which involve both Western



Drag diva Robert Stephens does Britney Spears right.

and Eastern religions. Lumpkin points out another leitmotif in several entries, that of gay men having sex with straight women: "It just kept popping up!"

We also learned that the drag diva Robert Stephens, who beat out a whole slew of straight girls in a 1999 Britney Spears lookalike contest (the story is recounted in *Britney Baby - One More Time*), formerly worked for the Mouse as a performer at Disneyland.

And it took a Hollywood player with pull (we guess that's what you'd call director Steve Guttenberg) to finally bring James Kirkwood's 1972 cult novel *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead* to the screen. The film may change the book's setting from '70s NYC to '00's LA, but it's dedicated to Sal Mineo, giving the production instant cred.

For now, we don't think it's possible to overlook the innate promise of *Sister Smile* (Suor Sorriso), the true story of "the

Singing Nun," Jeanine Deckers, and Morris assures us it's "not the Debbie Reynolds version!" The purveyor of the hit single "Dominique" (a-nique, a-nique) in the '60s, Deckers died in the '80s, in an apparent double-suicide with her lover Annie Pecher. We sure don't remember that in the Debbie musical!

Music to our ears is Dee Mosbacher's documentary *Radical Harmonies*, which charts the course of women's music from the early days (Chris Williamson and Meg Christian) and is far-ranging enough to include *Sweet Honey in the Rock*, *Tribe 8* and *Bitch and Animal*. The BAR begins three weeks of coverage of the 26th SFILGFF next issue. www.frameline.org/festival

An event with legs

After February's sold-out *Evening with Ann-Margret* at the ol' 'Stro, producer Hostess Huestis reached into his bag of tricks (which we're told are numerous) and pulled out another legendary A.M. *An Evening with Ann Miller*, set for Friday, July 26, will find the tapping torna-

page 38 ►



Radical Harmonies chronicles the rise of women's music.

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Career opportunities

Working women of 'Top Girls' at the Exit

by Richard Dodds

The double-edged sword of feminism leaves messy wounds in the women who dare to brandish it in *Top Girls*. While playwright Caryl Churchill's anti-Thatcher politics are clear enough, there is provocative ambiguity in her rendering of women who have "made it."

The program notes in Crowded Fire's smartly-acted production of the 1982 play fret a bit about its age. But there is no need to worry, for its basic realities still ring true 20 years later. At its heart, the play asks if a woman can succeed in a man's world without adopting the very qualities that have long kept women in their place. *Top Girls* offers no easy answers.

Top Girls was Churchill's follow-up to the time-traveling, role-swapping *Cloud 9*, and she opens the newer play with a reminiscent scene. At a luncheon hosted by a stylish career woman named Marlene, female characters from history, legend, and fiction gather to share their stories. In each case, their apparent triumphs begin to sound like hollow victories, as losses of children, femininity, and even life are revealed.

The real world takes over in the next scene, as we see Marlene coolly handling her executive job at a London employment agency. Subsequent scenes reveal her working-class background, and the brutal choices she made to take her place at the table with career-oriented men. There are uncomfortable parallels to the tales we heard in the first scene, though they seem lost on Marlene. That, Churchill seems to be saying, is the tragedy.

The Crowded Fire production at the Exit Theatre is one of limited production values, but the basic scenery somehow grows in atmosphere thanks to the evocative performances that inhabit it. With the exception of Marlene, crisply played by Linda Jones, the players all take on disparate multiple roles with intriguing results.

Katie Cronin is both a Victorian Scotswoman who toured the world and Marlene's dish-rag sister who never escaped. Cassie Beck plays a crusading drudge from a Bruegel painting and Marlene's slow-witted niece eager for escape. Michele Leavy, a wordless waitress in the first scene, returns repeatedly as different characters looking for a job. These actresses are joined by the equally fine Juliet Tanner, Mollena Williams, and Mary Saudargas in dual and triple roles.

Director Rebecca Novick has found the right tones in a play of rapidly shifting tones. The times, too, always seem to be rapidly shifting, but *Top Girls* offers a dilemma for the ages. ▼

Top Girls will run through July 6 at the Exit Theatre. Tickets are \$12-\$20. Call 675-5995.



(L to r): Linda Jones and Juliet Tanner in Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*

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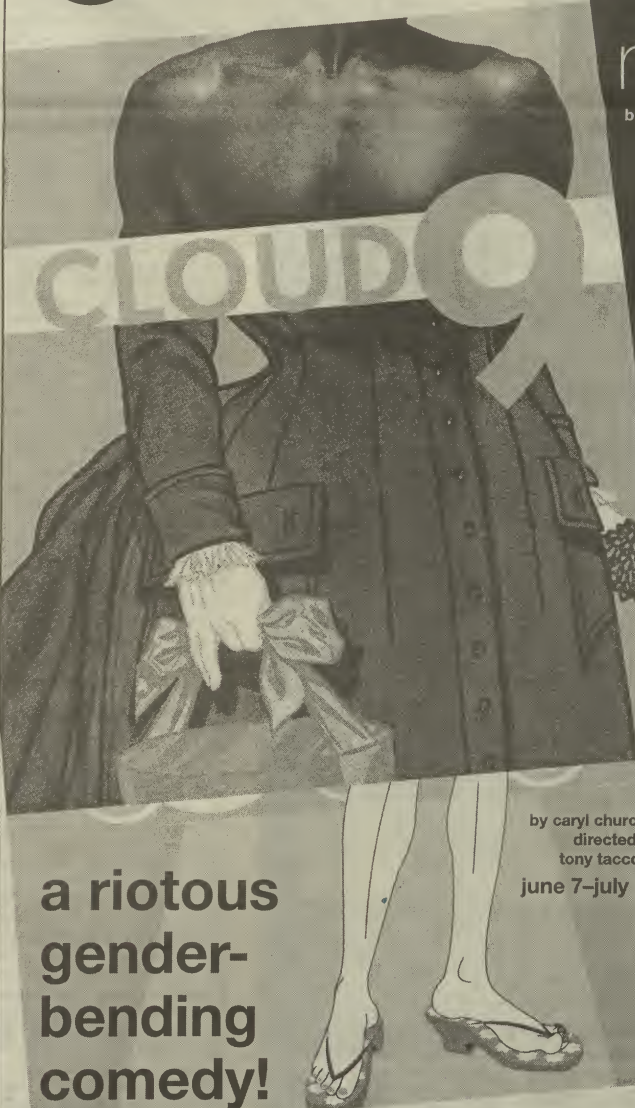
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Great Scot, it's Nic!

McGegan to conduct SFO's 'Giulio Cesare'

by Stephanie von Buchau

On June 19, conductor Nicholas McGegan makes his San Francisco Opera debut in what, considering how much bad opera has already hit the fan during the 2001-2002 season, is the best of all possible circumstances.

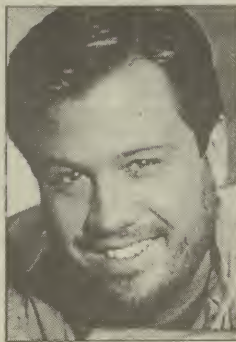
First of all, though John Copley's sumptuous production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* is the last of the Lotfi Mansouri era, McGegan is no lame duck. General director Pamela Rosenberg has already hired him to helm her nightmarish *Hansel and Gretel* in November. Then, the Italian-language *Cesare*, which hasn't been heard here in 20 years, sports an all-star, festival-quality cast.

Ruth Ann Swenson sings the giddy Cleopatra ("a Valley girl who just happens to rule Egypt," as McGegan puts it). Felicity Palmer is the noble matron Cornelia, the opera's moral compass. Ruxandra Donose, last heard here as Monteverdi's lubricious Poppea, plays Cornelia's son, Sesto. The evil Tolomeo is countertenor Bejun Mehta.

And, *primus inter pares*, Caesar himself is sung (and swaggered) by countertenor studmuffin David Daniels. Poor Daniels, a great musical artist who is also a gay man just too damned attractive for his own good, is constantly written about for his looks, his



Nicholas McGegan: to the heart



David Daniels: stud countertenor

brawn, his sexy stage presence and other non-musical stuff, like being openly out in the opera world, where plenty who should be, aren't.

McGegan goes straight to the heart of the matter. "The edition we are doing is one prepared for Janet Baker by [Charles] Mackerras, only in her case there were all these necessary transpositions. With David, we play it exactly the way it was written. No awkward transpositions are necessary, and you can hear him all over the [War Memorial] opera house."

In fact, McGegan is so appreciative of the quality cast that he's been given that, when asked if he had any input in their selection, he looks startled and says, "No, what would I want to change?"

Go for baroque

McGegan is familiar to local music buffs. He and his partner call Berkeley home, though they also have a place in Scotland. McGegan was principal guest conductor at Scottish Opera from 1992-1998, conducting all their Mozart. He's been music director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra for 17 years and has appeared at Cal Performances, conducting Mark Morris' whimsical *Platée*.

The odd thing about McGegan and baroque music is that he didn't start out to be a specialist at all. And still isn't, estimating that half his time is spent as a guest conductor for modern orchestras. At Cambridge, where the British-born musician graduated in 1972, McGegan played piano and flute and conducted "Janacek, Berlioz, that sort of thing." His first opera podium job, however, was a period reconstruction of *Tom Jones*.

In the three years he helped Elisabeth Soederstroem run the Drottningholm Court Theater in Sweden — that baroque jewel-box where Ingmar Bergman filmed his famous *Magic Flute* — McGegan revived *Tom Jones*, as well as conducting *Una cosa rara* (the opera you hear snippets of in the penultimate scene of *Don Giovanni*) and Haydn's *Orlando Palladino*. Despite the tiny pit that accommodates only 25 players (10 of them strings), McGegan speaks lovingly of the Drottningholm experience.

He's also high on his annual eight-day Handel Festival in Goettingen, in what used to be East Germany. He's been staging Handel operas there since 1991 in the tiny, 480-seat Deutsches Theater. McGegan estimates he has conducted 21 different Handel operas, and recorded 12 of them. The latest recording, from Goettingen, with Philharmonia

Baroque, which has been the pit band since 1999, is *Partenope*, available on PBO's own label.

A couple of years ago, McGegan told an hilarious story about working in East Germany. Seems he had cast English countertenor Robin Blaze as the hero of *Rodelinda*, when the local mayor got wind of the casting. Presuming that Blaze was "not a man" because of his high-pitched, feminine singing voice, the mayor demanded that the role be recast with "someone who sounds like a hero." Never mind the wholesale slaughter of the opera's key structures by such a choice. McGegan had us in stitches imitating the communist functionary's homophobic sputterings.

The conductor's twinkly, impish style makes him a favorite with singers and with writers who get a cramp trying to take down all his witticisms. He's going to play the harpsichord recitatives for *Giulio Cesare*, and when asked if he enjoys the fact that Handel left him with nothing to go on but a bass line, begins to talk of "the naughty bits" he likes to interpolate, "but only at rehearsals. I'd never do it in a performance." Watch out for the Beatles or the Italian national anthem.

McGegan enjoys Handel first of all because "it's such wonderful music," but also because "I can't stand what I call microwave operas. You know, everything is written out like Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress* (well, I like that piece a lot), and all you do is stick it in the microwave. I enjoy sorting out the twiddly cadenzas, and working with singers on style and interpretation."

"*Giulio Cesare* is one of Handel's very best — and he wrote 40 operas. It has great portraits of women, and dwells on personal relationships, rather than military history. You know, falling in love at Club Med, that sort of thing. The only time that Handel is boring is when it is unfeelingly staged in a — dare I use the word? — Eurotrash production. The point is that Handel operas are always elegant, and those busy productions where every *da capo* is filled with gratuitous business are charmless. Absolutely fatal."

Then, reverting to his impish tone, he says, "The East German musical style in baroque is slow and lumpy. It has the same stylistic effect on my teeth as rhubarb." There will be no rhubarb in this *Giulio Cesare*. ▼

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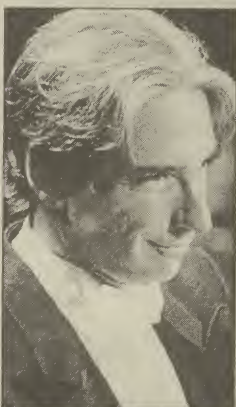
Lights, camera, action

SF Symphony's Russian Fest this month

by Philip Campbell

Amid the glare and clutter of movie lights and cameras, the San Francisco Symphony season came to a stirring close last week. Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas received a unanimous standing ovation that showed how devoted his fans and colleagues have become after six years of happy honeymooning.

The second half of the program was filmed for future promotional uses (another Visa commercial?) and a projected television/Web production concerning the power of music. If any conductor today could be regarded as a star, MTT is at the top of the list.



Tilson Thomas: honeymooning

The concert was originally to have opened with pieces by American composer William Schuman and closed with Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 1, *Spring*. It would have made a clever play on names and musical traditions, but the switch from Schumann to Tchaikovsky's sexier Fourth Symphony made better sense for our media-savvy maestro. If the cameramen had not been working, they would have enthusiastically joined in the applause.

More interesting, from a musical standpoint, was the all-Schuman first half, starting with the rousing *George Washington Bridge: An Impression for Band*. MTT showed a grand respect for a composer who may have made a greater impact in his lifetime as an administrator and educator. The broad strokes and muscular strength of the brief score reminded us of the composer's terse and highly individual voice.

Also receiving first SFS performances was Schuman's *Concerto on Old English Rounds*. Despite the title and the inclusion of a chorus of women and girls, it is truly a viola concerto, and the Symphony's Principal Violist since 1976, Geraldine Walther, was a wonderful soloist.

Walther, who lists among her credits participation in the World Orchestra's UN celebration in Geneva in 1995, has made her quarter-century in San Francisco a quietly emphatic model of dedication and artistic growth. Her unassuming stage presence and genuine sweetness only under-

score the strength of her playing. The shy team player knocks 'em dead whenever she steps into the spotlight. Walther will probably never be comfortable basking in the glow of audience or critical praise, but her performance commands such respect.

One local scribe called the Concerto "drab," and preposterously added that you probably had to live at the time Schuman was writing to enjoy his music. Well, MTT premiered the score in 1974 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. It is safe to say that the dyspeptic writer, as well as most of the audience in Davies Hall, was indeed alive when the excellent score was written.

The relatively spare use of the chorus heightens the significance of the remarkably intricate viola part. The words are less important than their sound, and the effect is often serenely beautiful. Vance George and Susan McMane coached their respective singers well, and Walther's contribution was beyond praise. Tilson Thomas expertly integrated the nervously dissonant passages with the contrasting lyrical or lively tunes.

The concluding Tchaikovsky was all show and excitement. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with that, but there was scarcely a moment of reflection or subtlety. An amusing sidelight came when the conductor could not help but cough at the end of a movement. He gestured to the audience that it might be a good point for everyone to let loose. A fair number of the audience mistakenly took that as a cue for applause. They proceeded to clap happily at the end of every section.

Russian roots

There will surely be more ovations and enthusiasm at Davies when the Russian Festival starts a three-week run on June 13. MTT has strong Russian roots, and the series continues his interesting practice of exploring individual composers and musical traditions.

The fabulous richness of the repertoire will be explored without the inclusion of difficult contemporary scores. The selections from Stravinsky and Shostakovich are not their most challenging. Still, who can resist *The Firebird Suite* or the latter composer's triumphal Fifth Symphony? It saved the beleaguered writer from Stalin's terrible wrath and allowed him the opportunity to create *From Jewish Folk Poetry*. Both of these works will be heard during the Shostakovich concerts Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22.

Opening night is an intimate symposium, with MTT and historian Harlow Robinson co-hosting. The performances will be of chamber works, including vocal contributions from mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretzky.

The splashiest event will be three semi-staged performances of Rimsky-Korsakov's opera-ballet *Mlada*, June 27, 29 & 30. Featured artists include former San Francisco Ballet star Evelyn Cisneros; the SFS Chorus; singers

Ljuba Kazarnovskaya, Gegam Grigorian and Brian Asawa. The stage director comes from the Met, Peter McClintock, and the choreography is by another SFB veteran, Val Caniparoli.

If you can only manage one evening, *Mlada* will be the hot ticket. I would also not want to miss pianist Vladimir Feltsman in



Vladimir Feltsman: unmissable

the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2 (June 19 & 20).

There will not be an *American Mavericks* this year, but Russian traditionalists are less frequently heard these days, and the upcoming festival is certainly more intriguing than standard midsummer Mozart programming. Get out the vodka and caviar. ▼

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Film clips: 'The Believer,' 'Promises,' & Roman Coppola's 'CQ'

by David Lamble

For those who can't drag themselves into the mosh pit of an Eminem concert, a glimpse of Ryan Gosling's mesmerizing performance as an ex-Yeshiva student turned neo-Nazi skinhead in director Henry Bean's rant on Jewish identity (in drag disguise as a melodrama about re-

ligious intolerance), *The Believer*, is both a cheaper date and easier on the ears. Like Denzel Washington's rogue narc in *Training Day*, Gosling's Danny Balint is a five-star gemstone wrapped around a two-and-a-half-star movie.



Ryan Gosling in *The Believer*

As with many bad boys, Danny can at first be dismissed for his taste in short hair, spit-shined boots, and hate-fueled simplistic answers for the troubles of the world; but if you don't walk out on him in the first 10 minutes, he will start to get under your skin, as well as make it crawl. He spits out the word Jew in a surreal and often hilarious monologue on the

"sinister" influence of Jewish men on a range of human activities, from land reform to oral sex. That Gosling can pull off this *tour de force* movie-within-the-movie for almost six minutes, and punctuate it by sticking a pistol into the mouth of a terrified *New York Times* reporter in a Queens, New York coffeeshop, and make you feel like you've witnessed a man in the throes of an unbearable passion, is a tribute to a style of acting largely missing from the screen since the late '70s.

Gosling's obviously sincere conviction that Danny's story is about misdirected love more than hate makes *The Believer* a bearable journey, and makes questions about Danny's annihilating expressions of his love of Jewishness as irrelevant as questions to Marshall Mathers on how he observes Mother's Day. In a back-handed tribute to the plethora of superheroes taking up celluloid these days, Gosling's Danny Balint walks around his "Jew York" like he's freezing, like there aren't enough clothes on the planet to make him warm, like he would love to trade in his black-on-red Nazi T-shirt, his steroids and his

weight-lifting equipment for Superman's cape. It's a pity that Henry Bean couldn't have constructed a better movie around his haunted little boy, couldn't have found a more dynamic cast (the overly white-bread Billy Zane, Theresa Russell and Summer Phoenix) to flesh out his amusing conceit of an Aryan nation that is more Nike than Nietzsche. *The Believer* opens June 14 at the Lumiere.

Long division

If only it were possible for a film to change hearts as easily as it can depict the darkness within them, then *Promises*, a documentary by Justine Shapiro and B.Z. Goldberg about a generation of Israeli and Palestinian children shadowed by two nations with conflicting visions for the same piece of real estate, would be must-viewing for every human being in the Holy Land, up to and including Sharon and Arafat. Made over a period of five years, in the time of cruel hope that connects the two Intifadas, *Promises* provides a very human look at what it's like to grow up on either side of the "Green Line" separating Israel from the West Bank.

Goldberg, an American Jew raised in Jerusalem, introduces us to seven kids on the cusp of puberty, including: Yarko and

boy who combines a puckish sense of humor with a steely-eyed view of the Koran; Faraj, an Arab boy who's torn between a desire to return to his family's abandoned farm in Israel and a wish to befriend the Jewish twins; and Raheli, a young "settler" girl who's like a young Diane Keaton in acting out her version of preparations for a Passover dinner, including a hilarious scene where she wrestles, Chaplin-like, with a pair of plastic chairs, while her brother Moishe remains obliviously glued to his computer. With the best onscreen rapport with kids since Mr. Rogers hung up his sweater, Goldberg demonstrates how shallow a grip ideology has on the mind of a child. At one point in the film's tenderest moment, Goldberg confronts the Jew-hating Mahmoud with incontrovertible evidence of B.Z.'s own Jewishness, which the boy deftly deflects, so desperate to retain the friendship of a trusted adult.

Depending on the fickle finger of contemporary events, *Promises* will either break your heart or leave you with renewed faith in the endless renewal possible in human nature. Opens June 14.

Roman's candle

CQ, the first feature film from Francis Ford Coppola's youngest son, Roman, shows the family business is probably in good hands. A light-natured satire set in 1968 Paris, *CQ* revels in a film-within-a-film structure that has a young editor (Jeremy Davies) making his own personal movie about his sexless life with a soon-to-be ex-girlfriend, while assuming the helm of a troubled big-budget feature from a megalomaniac French director (Gerard Depardieu) who's trying to insert some revolutionary passion into a *Barbarella*-like sci-fi spoof. Coppola invests the mostly silly proceedings with the playful hijinx reminiscent of his father's own first feature, *You're a Big Boy Now*. Particularly nice is an over-the-top turn by veteran Giancarlo Giannini as a Dino DeLaurentis-like producer who bullies Davies into doing his bidding. Now playing. ▼



Yarko & Faraj in *Promises*

Daniel, the volleyball-playing Israeli identical-twin brothers who joke about not dressing alike, about which Jerusalem city bus is least likely to blow up with them aboard, and who tease their Holocaust-survivor grandfather about whether he still believes in God; Mahmoud, a blonde Palestinian

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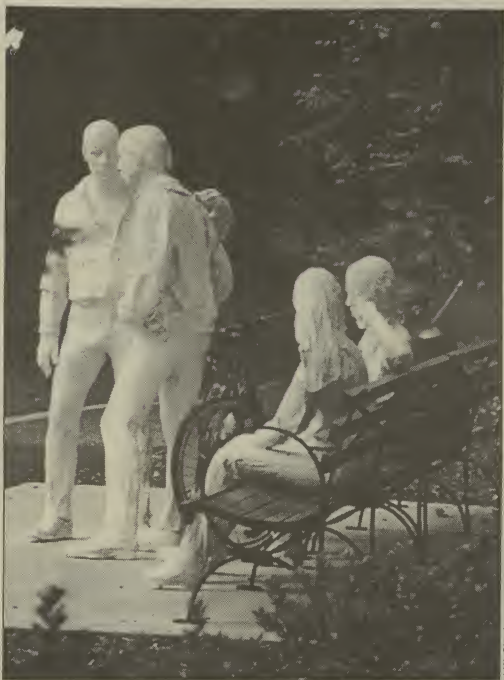
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George Segal's sculpture *Gay Liberation* (1981), on the Stanford campus.

Gay lib is back!

'Gay Liberation' re-installed at Stanford

by Will Shank

Down the Peninsula, *Gay Liberation* by George Segal has been installed once again in its former location on the Stanford University campus, near the Main Quad on Lomita Mall. *Gay Liberation* has gone on view after a protracted period of conservation and pouring of a new concrete base for this painted bronze sculpture, which Segal created in 1981. The six-piece sculpture features two cozy same-sex couples, the men standing, and the women seated on one of two benches. New York sculptor Segal died in 2000. He is best-known locally for his Holocaust Memorial on the grounds of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor.

Gay Liberation was the subject of a furor back in 1994, when the sculpture was vandalized "by football assholes," according to an unquotable source at the Cantor Center for the Arts at Stanford.

Extensive conservation work was done to remove layers of paint and correct the physical damage caused by the violent gay-bashing, which included being rammed by the bench.

"Stanford protects its students," modern art curator Hilarie Faberman told me when I asked her whether or not the punishment fit the crime. The jocks held responsible for the malicious vandalism suffered varying degrees of probation. The nature of the crime wavered back and forth between a misdemeanor and a felony as the cost of repairs was estimated and the extent of each of four students' involvement in the drunken spring fraternity party "prank" was assessed. The perpetrators denied that the destruction was a hate crime.

The sculpture was in museum storage most recently not because of vandalism, but because the University was restoring the Serra Mall back to an original plan, removing the grassy plot where *Gay*

Liberation had been installed, and changing much of the surrounding hard and soft landscape. The very white figures now proudly occupy a location just begs for benign interaction, just in time for Pride Month. "Gratefully," said Susan Roberts-Manganelli, Head of Registration and Conservation at the Cantor Center, "there has been no [further] vandalism." ▼



Robin Tunney: totally charming

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by Brandon Judell

Imagine a Meg Ryan comedy with a deadly stalker in it, replace Meg with Robin Tunney, and you've got *Cherish*, opening Friday.

Now, for those of you who haven't seen Ms. Tunney in *Niagara*, *Niagara*, in which her character suffered from Tourette's Syndrome, or in *The Craft* as a teenage witch, this young woman can act and she can fly. Let's see Julia Roberts top that.

Here she is totally charming as Zoe Adler, a computer animator who has a fear of being alone, which explains why she dates so much. She also talks too much, though only when she's nervous, which is most of the time. What calms Zoe down are old rock songs such as The Association's "Cherish," The Turtles' "Happy Together," and Terry Jacks' "Seasons in the Sun." It could be worse.

One day, a young man who's been stalking her jumps into her car and causes Zoe's automobile to run over a hunky cop, fatally. The villain runs away, and Zoe is arrested for the crime. Until her trial, she's placed in an industrial loft apartment with an electronic bracelet around her ankle. The guy who's in charge of monitoring the electronic bracelet, Daly (Tim Blake Nelson), immediately falls in love with her.

That's the comedy part. The next page ►

FILM

Hollywood's Diane Lane and hot French actor Olivier Martinez make beautiful music together in *Unfaithful*.

No-fault adultery

Adrian Lyne's 'Unfaithful' sizzles

by David Lamble

On a seemingly ordinary day, a fierce wind blows through lower Manhattan, sweeping an attractive middle-aged woman off her feet and into the path of a roguishly handsome young man carrying an unruly stack of old books. Connie Sumner (Diane Lane, in a career-topping role that redeems the promise shown in Francis Ford Coppola's teen operas, *The Outsiders* and *Rumble Fish*) meets Paul Martel (the French actor Olivier Martinez, uncorking a character who is the most intoxicating of wines) and suddenly, like Alice, Connie finds herself popping down a rabbit-hole. *Unfaithful* director Adrian Lyne demonstrates anew how small details — how cold a man takes his vodka, or how quickly he exits his clothes — can paint a larger portrait of social chaos.

For its first hour, *Unfaithful* tracks the rollercoaster ride of an illicit affair in all its giddy splendor. Connie is at first charmed by Martel, shocked at just how young he is, frightened at how good he is at taking her breath away, chagrined at herself for not simply hopping out of trouble and into a passing cab, and finally simply overcome by guilty pleasure over her new freedom and deadly secret, a pleasure that lingers in her memory and finally explodes all over her face as she practically spasms with joy sitting alone on the Metro North train trying to get home before dark to hearth, husband and heartbreak. The commuter train in *Unfaithful*, as it was for John Cheever, is a diabolical vehicle that lets its occupants dissemble at either end of the journey.

"How's your day?" "It was good, you know, the usual stuff." Edward Sumner (Richard Gere, who for once comes to his passion from a very low gear, and from behind granny glasses) asks Con-

nie the same question he's asked almost every day of their 11-year marriage. The answer starts out truthfully and then turns into a lie. Leaving Edward's study, Connie, in a Freudian slip, flips off the light, as if afraid to meet his eyes.

An ideal husband

Gere makes the most of the film's moody silences, and creates a portrait of a man who wakes up in the middle of a supposedly ideal marriage to find things shockingly askew. His Edward cannot question Connie about his suspicions, but has her followed by a private dick. Part of the evidence of adultery is a photo of the rapturous couple at a Jacques Tati movie.

As Charlie, the 9-year-old son who is as close to glue as there exists in Edward and Connie's marriage, Erik Per Sullivan (the youngest sibling from TV's *Malcolm in the Middle*) is a revelation. Possessing an oval face that registers amazement the way a Geiger counter registers radiation, Sullivan embodies the spirit of a prepubescent boy on whom sex has left no obvious imprint. Charlie exists almost as an organic form of irony. It also falls to him to deliver the inevitable Lyne bunny joke (everybody remembers *Fatal Attraction*'s boiled pet-bunny stew, but who recalls an odder bunny gag tucked into *Lolita*?)

Lyne got his start as the director of commercials, made his reputation as a director of commercially calculated films, peaking with a flawed masterpiece like *Fatal Attraction*, with its Reagan-era thirst for revenge. He turned an artistic corner with *Jacob's Ladder* and *Lolita*. With *Unfaithful*, Lyne lifts the plot from Claude Chabrol's 1969 thriller *La Femme Infidele*, adds a sumptuous account of the affair, but retains the French no-fault approach to adultery.

At the height of her scary freedom, Connie senses the emotion-

al tab she's running up on a part of her life she had never put a price on. Ambushed by day-tripping matrons near Martel's loft, Connie is dragged to a joyless café lunch with jealous hens. A break in the Ladies Room is interrupted by her bold boy, who bangs her to the tune of this bitter chorus: "She's nice, she's sweet, and her ass is exactly the same place it was in college. You think she's had work done?" ▼

Unfaithful is now playing.

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Cherish

◀ previous page

scary part is supposed to be that the stalker is searching for Zoe still.

Adding class to this clash of genres are Tunney's and Nelson's delightful performances. Adding class and depth is Ricardo Gil's bravura take on Zoe's downstairs

neighbor, Max. His speech about growing up as a gay, Jewish, crippled dwarf should earn him award nominations from every gay group that nominates people for such performances. It's touching. It's dignified.

As for your cherishing *Cherish*: well, it's a light comedy with a dark edge. If that's your cup of tea, then this is your teabag. Just add boiling water. ▼

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Victor Arimondi

Arimondi: A Retrospective, just opened at Atelier Gallery in the penthouse of 2354 Market St., shows the artist's wide range of subject and genre. Victor Arimondi (1942-2001) was model and muse as well as photographer. His work — fashion, portrait, still life, and erotica — is well-represented in the Atelier's commodious space, where the nudes and the unexpected portraits take on qualities of the still life.

Fashion work seemed a natural extension of Arimondi's glamorous life, and he created spreads for I. Magnin, Salvatore Ferragamo, and Vogue. But it's in the erotic photographs that more personal aspects get expressed, such as in this view of a real Marlboro man in front of the commercial one in *Billboard*, San Francisco, an archival print from 1979. For more information, www.atelier142.com, or call (415) 861-8216. ▼

Sundance Channel goes gay in June

The fourth 'Out Loud' film festival

by Robert Julian

The Sundance Channel (SF cable channel 505), one of the sponsors of this year's San Francisco Lesbian/Gay film fest, celebrates gay pride throughout the month of June with its own gay/lesbian film festival. One of the premier events of the month is a debut screening of *The*

Cockettes on June 21, one week before the film's national theatrical release. David Weissman and Bill Weber's delightful documentary explores and celebrates the counterculture existence of San Francisco's most memorable fringe performance group.

Sundance will air 31 gay/lesbian films in June, including a mixture of documentaries and features, with a few vintage titles scattered among the collection of recent releases. Foreign titles include Ingmar Bergman's *Persona* (6/6), *Aimee & Jaguar* (6/19),

plans to see. *Chuck & Buck* tells the story of boyhood friends (and adolescent sexual partners) whose lives take different directions. The adult Chuck lives in Los Angeles and is about to be married when the geeky, immature Buck shows up on his doorstep, intent on rekindling their relationship. The result is a hysterically funny comedy that will also make you squirm. For maximum enjoyment, this film should be viewed with a closeted gay male, who will probably get so uncomfortable he'll have to leave the room.



Michael Cuesta's *L.I.E.* is part of the programming this month: powerful.

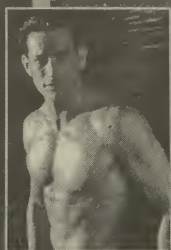
Steam: The Turkish Bath (6/9), and *Water Drops on Burning Rocks* (6/7). Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir's documentary *The Brandon Teena Story* (6/10) is a devastating portrait of tragedy, far more disturbing than *Boys Don't Cry*, the feature film starring Hilary Swank as Brandon Teena.

In the genre of light comedy, Tony Vitale scores with *Kiss Me Guido* (6/20). But for my money, the two most powerful entries in the Sundance June catalog are Michael Cuesta's *L.I.E.* (6/22) and Miguel Arteta's brilliant and poignant masterpiece *Chuck & Buck* (6/22). These films, run back-to-back on the same evening, are worth making special

L.I.E. is an equally provocative, but much darker entry. Young boys turn tricks at rest stops on the Long Island Expressway, patronized by pedophiles like Big John Harrigan (Brian Cox). But when two suburban high-school boys come under his influence, the experience becomes life-changing for all three men. This extremely powerful film features great performances from all the principals; it's a movie you'll think about for days after your first viewing.

The June celebration of gay pride represents the Sundance Channel's fourth annual *Out Loud* gay/lesbian film festival. All programming on Sundance airs without commercial interruption. ▼

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TELEVISION

The sum of all fears

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Remember when a thriller by Tom Clancy seemed a tad over the top? That was, of course, in a pre-9/11 world. This week, we ponder which part of the world will blow up first: the US, India and Pakistan, or the Middle East? That's just the short list.

One can sort of understand, then, why ABC is running its "reality miniseries" *The Hamptons* for the next few weeks. If anything can make harsh reality go away, it's watching the idle rich act like assholes for a couple of hours a night. Filmed by veteran documentary Barbara Kopple, whose Oscar-winning work has previously covered the poor, downtrodden, and workers of the neo-Third World, the series offers all her usual acumen. Unfortunately, the subjects are, well, boorish.

Kopple appeared on *Good Morning America* last week toutting the series and trying to spin it toward the workers in the Hamptons, but the attempt was as weak as it was futile. *The Hamptons* is *Rich and Famous* revisited through the lens of someone whom we had hoped wouldn't sell out to this sort of drivel. But if you like glitz and glamour, tune in. It's all that, and dish-festy besides. Which will fill some of the voyeuristic slack left by last week's conclusion of *Survivor: Marquesas*.

Speaking of voyeurism, we couldn't have been much more appalled at the crass marketing of the dead by Cantor-Fitzgerald in their new ad campaign, which debuted last week. We're still scrubbing off the ick factor. Even the rarely-ruffled Diane Sawyer couldn't seem to get her head around the idea when she interviewed C-F's PR muffin.

Cantor-Fitzgerald lost nearly all their personnel on 9/11, when one of the planes literally flew into their WTC offices. Over 600 people were killed. The company's CEO survived, late to work that morning because he was taking his young child to school for the first time, but vowed to do all possible

to support the families of the dead.

It's difficult to imagine that what the survivors had in mind was an ad campaign which basically says, "Hey, most of our guys were incinerated on 9/11. Use our investment service, and they didn't die in vain."

Since 9/11, there has been a gross amount of capitalizing on the tragedy, in advertisements and TV programming, but this seems a new nadir. Call us unpatriotic, but we simply don't believe the terrorists win if we don't use the dead to full financial advantage.

The C-F ads played a sleazy counterpoint to the beautifully simple televised requiem that ended the clean-up at Ground Zero, after nearly nine months of agonizing work by a dedicated band of professionals and volunteers. The haunting ringing of the firemen's bell, the removal of a symbolic flag-draped coffin, the playing of the ever-tear-jerking "Taps," and above all the decision to eschew self-serving politically-driven speeches made this a moment of remembrance everyone could participate in. This is what TV does best, bringing a nation together in rituals that remind us of our collective humanity.

Rogue red

Unfortunately, there isn't a lot of that collective humanity being felt elsewhere. Conflict between India and Pakistan continues to ratchet up while President Bush plays footsie with the Pope and cozies up to the utterly impotent Vladimir Putin, whose only claim to diplomatic importance is that Russian plutonium seems to have a nasty habit of going missing in the direction of various "rogue" nations. The Man Who Wasn't There, otherwise known as Secretary of State Colin Powell, has once more been bypassed for other, lesser, and more hawkish members of the Cabinet to do the diplomatic tourney in the Sub-

continent, provided it's still there by the time Bush finally sends someone over. But getting an edge on that one-in-four-Americans Catholic vote probably does carry more weight than a few hundred million Hindus and Muslims about to be blown to kingdom-come with nuclear weapons they got from *hmmmm*?

Meanwhile, Bill Clinton has offered his services to the Bush team for diplomatic efforts on several occasions in recent weeks, if the Sunday talk shows are to be believed. Not surprisingly, he's yet to be recruited. All Bush needs is Clinton pulling a diplomatic coup on his watch. Jimmy Carter is problematic enough.

Nevertheless, it was nice to see Clinton stumping for the environmental group NRDC. The star-studded event got carried on cable as well as *ET* and *Extra*. Clinton's still got that razzmatazz. Tom Brokaw, NBC's lead newsmen, has inked a promise to stay on through the 2004 election, after which he will relinquish his nightly anchor seat to his handpicked scion, Brian Williams. Brokaw will continue to do news specials for the network, but expect his leaving to shake things up for Peter Jennings and Dan Rather at ABC and CBS. The 40something Williams will ascend to the top-rated news throne, which can't bode well for the aging anchors

hovering at 60, Grecian formula notwithstanding.

Jennings' news special last week, *Bitter Medicine*, the culmination of over a year of investigative journalism, proved what many an AIDS and cancer activist has long known: the drug companies are price-gouging in a big way. One would be hard-pressed to pick the most disturbing items revealed, but the determination that fewer truly new drugs are being discovered and marketed, while prices are going up exponentially for drugs that aren't necessarily the best treatment options for the patient, was the most worrisome. It's to be hoped that among the handful of viewers who tuned in (a ratings bust, as most of these news shows are) were legislators with the power to shift the balance from company to consumer. Stay tuned.

Filler alert

There won't be too much else to watch for in the next six weeks as the summer hiatus sets in. ABC has revived the reality series *The Mole* on Tuesdays, and renamed the already-canceled sitcom *Wednesdays* to *My Adventures in Television* (even John Cleese does not make this worth watching). Also back for filler, the icky *SPY-TV* on NBC.

We prefer to recommend reruns of *Will & Grace*, which had a blast of a season. If you've yet to watch *The West Wing*, absolutely the best-written and acted show on TV, do so. As for new fare, Dick Wolf, creator of the *Law & Order* franchise, is serving up a *Court-*

TV-esque version of his *L&O* shows throughout June on NBC. *Crime and Punishment* focuses on real cases in California. Our preview looked quiet entertaining.

Nearly all the shows with queer characters got the ax at season's end last month, so now would be the time to catch reruns of *Ellen*, *Dark Angel* and *Philly*. *NYPD Blue*'s in-house queer, Bill Brochtrup, remains and actually got some airplay this season, so those reruns are also worthwhile. And don't forget the clock is ticking out on Bill Maher's *Politically Incorrect*, the best talk show on TV, just canceled by ABC.

Finally, our TV moment of the week came when a reporter asked Bush a question in a press conference on his European tour (which went unanswered) and then asked the same question of French prez, Jacques Chirac, *en Francais*. Bush proceeded to lambaste the reporter, dissing him for "learning four words of French" and looking like an Intercontinental so-and-so. Bush didn't stop there, he went on to make noises in Spanglish with a nasty nyah-nyah sound to them. The French newspapers, *que'l surprise*, had a field day. Once again, TV was remarkable, because the look on Bush's face when he heard the French was, to borrow from those Mastercard ads, priceless.

If we can't have a leader who leads, at least we can have one who gives us something to laugh about. Cold comfort as the mushroom cloud envelops us, perhaps, but... ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



"Toro Toro" by Maryann Luera

Men, by women

To take in all of the multitude of queer cultural offerings in store this week, you would have to be either a high-paid model/escort on a very loose leash or a trust-fund-baby dilettante. Who else has time? If you're an ordinary working lad or lass, you'll have to be extra picky. On the one hand you've got the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (www.frame-line.org/festival) opening on Thursday, June 13 at the Castro and Herbst theatres, and it's entirely possible to get sucked into that particular orgy so completely the rest of the world disappears. It's just you and the screen and hundreds of other giddy queer cineasts reveling in motion-picture bliss for days on end.

On the other hand we've got the National Queer Arts Festival (NQAF) already in full swing, which gives us many more options for entertainment, but first we have to break old habits. We're used to going to the Castro, and we're no stranger to the Herbst, but now we've got all these other locations where things are happening, starting with the GLBT Community Center, where last weekend a host of performers previewed their works, and all I can say is, if you spend all your time and money at the film fest and skip the queer arts fest, you'll miss out on some of the great cultural offerings of our time.

Opening this Friday, June 7 at SomArts (934 Brannan St. at 9th St.) is a joint exhibition, "Men of Color: Nudes at Ease," featuring the photographic work of Laurie Toby Edison, and "The Female Gaze," paintings by Maryann Luera. Edison has a knack for revealing men of color as they are — old, young, fat, thin, varied in class and ethnicity — and a way of getting men comfortable and accepting of themselves. Luera, working on canvas, flips the male gaze on its head by rendering men in all their beauty. These non-eroticized images and portraits by queer women offer a refreshing change from the usual over-sexed images that permeate the gay world.

To give this art some context, a panel discussion will be held at SomArts on Sunday, June 9 at 2 p.m., entitled "Contested Flesh: Images of Body Image for Queer Men of Color," moderated by Jaime Cortez, co-curator of this exhibition (with Edison). Joining him will be Edison, Rene Broussard, Pedro Bustos, Rev. Dr. Ibrahim Farajaje, and Joel B. Tan. Tickets are \$5-\$15 sliding scale. For details about this and other NQAF events, phone (415) 865-5611 or visit the web at queerculturalcenter.org



from "Familiar Men: A Book of Nudes" by Laurie Toby Edison

Fri 7

National Queer Arts Festival @ The Center

Djola Branner, Aimee Bryant, and Angela Henderson perform in "Mighty Real," a chronicle of the life of SF disco legend Sylvester. It explores the diva's huge impact on pop music and culture. Branner belts out Sylvester's anthems. "Mighty Real" is part of a series designed by the National Performance Network (NPN). \$15-\$25 sliding. 8pm (7pm Sun.). Also June 8 & 9. SF GLBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ The Center

Celebrate the release of the new Cleis Press anthology, *Black Like Us*, with co-editors Don Weise and Devon Cardado moderating a panel of contributors including Red Jordan Arobateau, Marci Blackman, Michelle Cliff, Darieck Scott, and Evelyn C. White. \$10-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ SomArts

Opening Reception: "Men of Color: Nudes at Ease," photographs by Laurie Toby Edison, whose images provide new insights into the bodies and lives of men of color across a broad range of age, size and class, and "The Female Gaze," renderings of objectified, idealized male beauty by painter Maryann Luera. Donation. 6-8pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ SomArts

Marga Gomez and Carmelita Tropicana play house in "Single Wet Female," a low-rent thriller about perverted roommates. \$20. 8pm. Also June 8 & 9. 934 Brannan (at 8th St.). Info/tix: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ Brava

Kate Rigg's "Chink-O-Rama," a send-up of Asian stereotypes served in a cultural-activist style. \$24 (\$22 student/senior). 8pm. Wed.-Sun. thru June 16. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (at York). Tix/info: 647-2822; www.brava.org

NQAF @ Dance Mission Theater

"Tears of the Rock," featuring Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers in an expression of concern for the violence, fear and hatred that divides the Middle East. Live music by Susanna Goldenstein and Voclot, a group that specializes in Jewish/Israeli songs, plus arrangements by Mideast percussion master Susu Pompanin and original score by Marc Ream. Traditional Palestinian folk dance by Elias Khoury. Additional choreography by Israeli artist Miri Hunter. A benefit for Middle East Children's Alliance. \$16 adv.; \$18 door. 8pm Fri. & Sat.; 6pm Sun. Thru June 16. 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 273-4633; Modern Times Bookstore

NQAF @ Jon Sims Center

"Things Unsaid," by Dan Nguyen, a multimedia, narrative portrait of men in love, missed chances, irreversible mistakes and unspoken feelings amongst an extended Vietnamese American "family of choice." Directed by Paul Heller. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also June 8 & 9. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: 554-0402. Tix: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Bethany United Methodist Church

"We Do, Too, in 2002!" A two-day conference (June 7 & 8) in response to the growing legal recognition of gay/lesbian domestic partnerships and the ministries that support those relationships. The keynote speaker will be law professor Kate Kendell of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. 7:30pm. 1268 Sanchez St. (at Clipper). Info: www.bethanysf.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Intersection for the Arts presents "The Hybrid Project at Yerba Buena," a distillation of more than two dozen performative responses generated from a year's worth of Hybrid Project events. Featuring the Erika Shuch Performance Project, DJ Sake-1, Berkeley High School sophomore and performance poet Eli Marienthal, dance company Future Shock, theater artists Joe Lopez and Shawn Taylor, actor and radio broadcaster Donald E. Lacy Jr., and choreographer-poets Alysia Gonzalez and Tricia Ong. Hosted by Sean San José. \$12. 8pm. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-2787.

Paramount Theatre, Oakland

The Oakland East Bay Symphony, conducted by Michael Morgan, performs Gustav Mahler's mighty Symphony No. 6 in A minor (1906), and Claude Debussy's exotic *Sacred and Profane Dances* for harp and strings. \$15-\$55. 8pm. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Tix/info: (510) 625-8497; www.oebso.org; Ticketmaster outlets.

Live Art Gallery

Opening reception: New work by SF painter David Faulk, "Odd Body Lulu," a new series of humorous and thought-provoking small scale paintings with a Pop sensibility in a surreal style. Free. 6-9pm. 151 Potrero St. (btwn 15th & Division). Other times by appt.: 241-9604.

Sat 8

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Pescadero/Towne Creek Loop Hike. Enjoy tree-shaded, spring-fed creeks and sunny ridges. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Most Holy Redeemer Church

"Switchhitters 2002... Going Down Under," the 20th Annual Variety Show presented by Switchhitters, SF's premiere gay softball league. Cash prizes (\$100 first place; \$50 second place) in three categories: "Switchhitter" (F to M and M to F); "Talent" (individual men and women); and "Team" (men's and women's divisions). Tix: \$12 adv. at Bert's Place for from GSL team members; \$15 door. 7-8pm cocktails; 8pm show. El-



Djola Branner revives the spirit of Sylvester in *Mighty Real* as part of the National Queer Arts Festival at The Center. See Friday.

lard Hall, MHRC, 100 Diamond St. Info: www.sfgsl.org

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, hold their monthly potluck. They are also seeking volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. 12 noon. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info/rides from BART: (510) 667-9655.

QueLaFest @ Mission Cultural Center

The Queer Latina/o Arts Festival presents "The 5th Annual Hank Tavera Performance Show," an evening showcasing the talents of dancers, poets, performers, musicians and more. \$10. 8pm. 2868 Mission St. Info: 273-1041; quelaco.org

NQAF @ SomArts

"Whose Gaze Is It Anyway?" In which photographer Laurie Toby Edison and painter Maryann Luera discuss why they've chosen to turn their queer gaze on nude men. \$5-\$10 sliding. 2pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ The Center

"Women of Color Film Night," curated by Darshan Elena Campos. A collection of short films by artists who explore issues that affect communities of color, from the perspective of queer women. A forum for concern about the U.S. government's war on its own peoples, cultures and land. Free (donations welcome). 8pm. 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

A Different Light Bookstore

Photographer Tom Bianchi will be in the store to autograph copies of his hot new photo book, *On the Couch*. Meet him and his gorgeous models in person. Free. 3pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adlbooks.com



Anne Bluethenthal & Dancers perform *Tears of the Rock* as part of the National Queer Arts Festival at Dance Mission Theater. See Friday.

San Jose Gay Pride Festival
 "Free Community Day in the Park" featuring entertainment for the entire gay family, plus loads of arts & crafts, food & drink, activities and people watching. On the Main Stage: Making Waves, Lisa Dewey, Blame Salley, Diamond John's Review, Arceo & Long Band, Lido's Club, and Tina Noyes & The Boys. Free. Noon-5:45pm. Discovery Meadow, next to the Children's Discovery Museum, corner of San Carlos and Woz Way in downtown San Jose. Info: www.sjgaypride.com

Polly Esthers, San Jose
 Club Papi presents "The Magic Returns," a Latin-style pre-San Jose Pride party, featuring dance diva Ultra Naté live on stage, singing her hits "Free," "Desire," and "Stars on 54." \$15. 9pm-2am. 396 S. 1st St., San Jose. Info: (408) 793-0113; www.papipresents.com

Marlena's
 "Fauxgirls!" Drag cabaret at its best, hosted by Anjelica Devarox and "En Drag" creator Victoria Secret, featuring the blind talents Donna Rae, Bliss, Reality, Mini Minerva, Davida and more. No cover. 10pm showtime. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672; www.sfdrag.com

Club Townsend
 High energy dance music with special guest DJ "Little Louie" Vega, acclaimed as an icon of the New York house music community, part of the team Masters at Work along with partner Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez. \$20. 9:30pm-7am. 177 Townsend St. (across from Pac Bell Park). Info: 974-1156; www.clubtownsend.com. Tix: 1-888-TIX-ONLY.

Sun 9

NQAF @ Main Library
 Intergeneration Performance Series II presents "Potlatch: Sharing a Lifetime of Experience, Stories, and Treasures From Our Tribe," hosted by the library's James C. Hornum Lesbian and Gay Center. Organized by Frank Pietronigro. Performances by LGBT youth, families and elders — queers of all ages — reflect each individual's experience of aging as a member of the LGBT community. 2pm. Koret Auditorium, SF Main Library, 100 Larkin St., lower level. Info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

NQAF @ SomArts
 "Contested Flesh: Fags Dissect the Bawdy Politics of Body Politics," in which panelists discuss how our queer bodies are forever being legislated against, assaulted, ravaged and glorified. Jaime Cortez moderates, with Pedro Bustos Aguilar, Rene Broussard, Laurie Toby Edison, Eliyahou (Elias) Farajajé, and Joel Tan-Barraquiel. \$5-\$15 sliding. 2pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Upper Haight Street
 "The 25th Anniversary Haight-Ashbury Street Fair" kicks off a day of music, arts and crafts and food on Haight Street from Masonic to Stanyan. Two stages provide entertainment all day long. 11am-5:30pm. Info: www.haightstreetfair.org

San Jose Gay Pride Festival & Parade
 The Parade starts at 11am and proceeds down Market Street between St. John and W. San Carlos. The festival begins at 11:30pm and continues until 7:30pm. Special features include a Country Western Area and a Leather Alley. On the Hewlett Packard Main Stage: Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus; SF Cheer, Adelante Salsa Band, Martha Wash, Imperial Teen, Athena, The Cheeseballs, and The Pointer Sisters. On the Watergarden Dance Stage: Robin S and Ultra Naté. \$10 at the gate (\$8 adv. through Tickets.com). Festival site: Discovery Meadow, next to the Children's Discovery Museum, corner of San Carlos and Woz Way in downtown San Jose. Info: www.sjgaypride.com

First Unitarian Church
 Joel Koosed presents "The Meeting Game" Salon — 100 Men in One Night? Meet 50-100 gay and bisexual men, a few at a time, at an evening of short group conversations and icebreakers. \$20 adv.; \$25 door. 7-10pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Info: 789-7600; www.MeetingGame.com/gay



Legendary NYC DJ "Little Louie" Vega spins at Club Townsend. See Sat.

Mon 10

NQAF @ The Center
 NQAF Featured Screening & Discussion: Rene Broussard's "the fatboy chronicles," an extremely personal view into the director's "narcissistic masturbatory fantasy world" from kindergarten to present day. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

QComedy @ The Center
 Special NQAF edition of QComedy, tonight hosted by Marilyn Pittman, ace comic and radio star, with the dazzling comedic talents of Pippi Lovestocking, plus Dana Cory, David Guiney, Bridget Schwartz and more. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Tue 11

Mission Dolores Basilica
 The Golden Gate Men's Chorus, directed by Joseph Jennings, presents "In Memoriam: Prayers for Peace." Featuring Luigi Cherubini's *Requiem Mass No. 2 in d minor* for men's chorus and orchestra. This 60-voice ensemble, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, performs this 19th century masterpiece in memory of victims of war, terrorism, disease and famine. \$20. 8pm. Also on Sun., June 16 at 7pm. 370 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Tix/info: 668-GGMC; www.ggmc.org; A Different Light Bookstore.

Modern Times Bookstore
 Noël Alunit reads from his debut novel, *Letters to Montgomery Clift*, the coming of age and coming out story of Bong Bong Luwad, a Filipino teen who enlists the spirit of 1950s screen idol Montgomery Clift to help him find his mother, imprisoned in the Philippines under the Marcos regime. And Brian Ascalon Roley reads from *American Son*, about two half-Filipino brothers who can pass for white, but whose mother cannot. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 282-9246; moderntimesbookstore.com

Wed 12

NQAF @ Jon Sims Center for the Arts
 "AfterShocks: An Evening with Jess Wells," whose novel *AfterShock* charts the emotional terrain of eight San Franciscans after the Big One — an 8.0 earthquake. The novel looks at how control is a drug, and the way that intimacy and self-definition are challenged by upheaval. The book, first published in 1992, is being re-issued this month as a Triangle Classic by InsightOut Books. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Commonwealth Club
 A Different Light Bookstore presents author David Leavitt reading and in conversation. Leavitt first dazzled the

literary world with his collection of stories *Family Dancing*, published when he was just 23. His latest book, *Florence, A Delicate Case*, chronicles his expatriate life in "the city of the lily." \$9 members, \$12 non-members. Wine and cheese reception at 6:45pm. Program at 7:30pm. 595 Market St. (at 2nd St.). Tix/info: 597-6705.

Thu 13

NQAF @ SomArts
 Opening Reception: B/GLAM (Black Gay Letters and Arts Movement) in conjunction with the QCC presents "Black Inches: (re) Measuring Blackness, Desire, Art and Pornography," an exhibition showcasing black gay artists who use pornography that features black gay men as the impetus for thinking about and creating art. DJ Sir Charles spins sounds. (The exhibition opening precedes tomorrow night's presentation of "The Mangina Monologues," an evening of performance organized by Johari Jabir and Marvin K. White.) \$10-\$15 sliding. 6pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 865-5611; www.queerculturalcenter.org

ODC Theater
 Deborah Slater Dance Theater presents "The Sleepwatchers," an intensely physicalized journey through the interior landscape of sleep, conceived, choreographed and directed by Deborah Slater, with co-director Jim Cave. The piece takes its audience surfing across the brainwaves of Stanford Sleep Specialist Dr. William Dement, who is best known for his theories on the profound effect of sleep loss as it affects contemporary society's mental and physical well being. \$16 adv.; \$18 door. 8pm. Thu.-Sat., June 13-22. 3153 Seventeenth St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org; ticketweb.com

Modern Times Bookstore
 The always intriguing Dennis Cooper reads from his latest novel, *My Loose Thread*. The book explores teenage depression, moral vacuity and the confusion of love through Larry, a teen wrestling not only with his sexuality and the implications of his physical relationship with his younger brother, but with the very meaning of existence. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 282-9246; moderntimesbookstore.com

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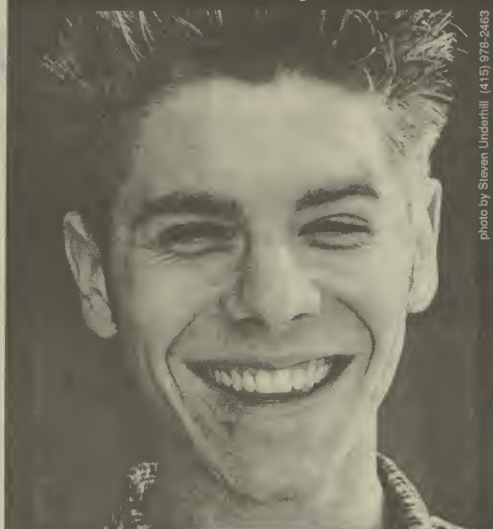


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Kander and Ebb get revue treatment

But New Conservatory's 'And the World Goes Round' disappoints

by Richard Dodds

Sooner or later, all Broadway songwriters worth their salt are feted with a musical revue. Some are self-created, like *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Some are duds, like the Frank Loesser-inspired *Perfectly Frank*. And some have become perennials, like *Side by Side by Sondheim*.

There are two obvious essential ingredients to dislodging songs from their sources, and then successfully stringing them together. First, the songs must work as three- or four-minute theatrical units unto themselves. Second, those songs must be assembled in a way that creatively drives some dramatic arc, even without the benefit of dialogue or plot.

And the World Goes Round, constructed from the Kander and Ebb songbook, is one of the better examples of the genre. The blurb in the Music Theatre International catalog is predictably hyperbolic: "a thrilling celebration of life and the fighting spirit that keeps us all going" — but there is a kernel of truth in that that should not be neglected.

It's awfully hard to divine that message, or anything else beyond a mildly pleasant collection of songs, in the current production at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Even the jingle bells wielded by the cast in the usually rousing "Ring Them Bells" are rather listless here.

Director Earl Weaver does provide the cast of five with choreographed movements that give many of the songs their own look, but that agreeable touch can be

offset by awkward departures at the end of numbers. Wisely, surely, the title song from *The Rink* with the cast on roller-skates has been excised.

The revue draws from such Kander and Ebb stage and movie musicals as *Cabaret*, *New York, New York*, *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. The songs are personality-driven, ideal for this out-of-context approach. But with only occasional exceptions, the cast at New Conservatory isn't distinguished with memorable stage personas or singing voices.

Most of the rationed personality is provided by Matthew Lazzanini, a quirkily cute fellow with an expressive face. Gregory Tittle

is memorable mostly because he's the guy who isn't Lazzanini, but there is no such distinguishing comparative to help sort out the performances by the women: Melissa O'Keefe, Lisa Janai-Hernandez, and Corrie Borris.

And the World Goes Round, in this incarnation, may hold some appeal for those who don't already have its songs going round in their heads. Other than that, this *World* is pretty flat. ▼

And the World Goes Round will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through July 14. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.



Gregory Tittle, Melissa O'Keefe, Corrie Borris, and Lisa Janai-Hernandez

Out There

◀ page 26

do/drag icon jetting into our hammy burg straight (so to speak) from Beverly Hills, 90210.

Queens of a certain age remember Ann as the star of such technicolor musicals as *On the Town* and *Kiss Me Kate* (which will be screening in its original 3-D). That's the one where she belts out "Tom, Dick or Harry," desperately searching for "dick, a-dick a-dick, a-dick a dick!" Gay ol' **Cole Porter** must have gotten a kick and/or a dick outa that!

La Miller has worked with a veritable Who's Who in Hollywood, including **Fred, Ginger, Judy, Frank, Lucy, Desi, Groucho** and **Kate**. A younger and devious generation will remember Miller as **Coco**, the superglammed-out landlady in director **David Lynch's** loony *Mulholland*



Long-legged legend Ann Miller

Drive. Now 80, Miller is still a spitfire, and Huestis promises mo' dish than the Ann-Margret affair,

as well as the return of drag queens onstage, including Castro fave **Matthew Martin** as Ann Miller and songstress **Connie Champagne** as Judy Garland. Call 863-0611 or e-mail hostess2@earthlink.net. Tell 'em Out There sent you and get \$2 off the ticket price (and you thought this column was worthless?)

World beat

The Scotsman reported last week that British **Royal Marines** returning home from an operation in the Afghan mountains complained of being propositioned by "swarms" of gay local farmers. Poor dears. The Marines had been sent into villages near Khost, and they found the locals more terrifying than terrorists. "They go about hand in hand, mincing around the village," said Marine **James Fletcher**. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

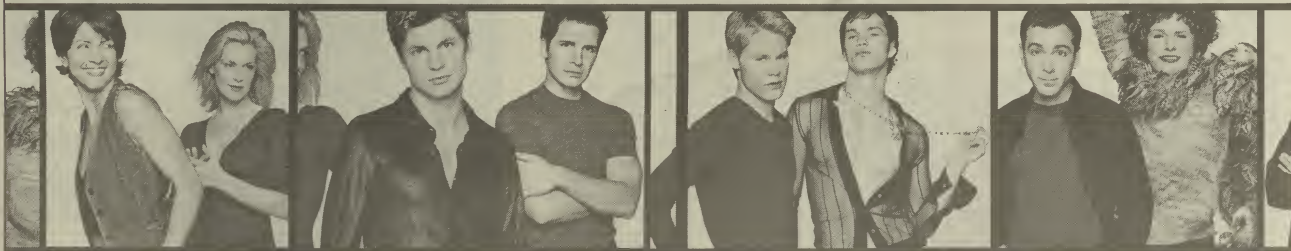
In other mincing news, the

Liberace Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada has been newly remodeled, and now boasts an oversized neon pink piano and a giant rendition of the late pianist's signature. Still no mention that he was gay.

We regret to report that once again this year, **Pride 02** magazine, based in New York City, has employed not a single SF writer. If you see plastic-wrapped piles of the glossy mag stacked curbside at the Pride Parade, remember their true worth. They make for a great stepladder to see over the wigs of beanpole drag queens.

From a memo of changes to the **National Queer Arts Festival** catalog: "*Things Unsaid* has been canceled." Things still unsaid. The Wednesday, June 26 and Saturday, June 29 performances of *And You Can't Make Me* have been canceled." Oh yes, we can. Continues through June 30, www.queer-culturalcenter.org. ▼

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THEATRE

Gay life is found in hidden places

'On a Muggy Night in Mumbai' to play National Queer Arts Festival

by Sandip Roy

There are no pride parades, no Castro streets with rainbow flags and bars, no LGBT community centers in India. But while the markers of gay life might be hard to find, for those in the know, gay life itself is bustling and thriving in India's teeming cities and towns. And *On a Muggy Night in Mumbai*, India's largest metropolis, it comes to a sweltering boil. In a new play, Mahesh Dattani, one of India's preeminent playwrights, explores a cross-section of urban gay life in India. *Muggy Night* caught the attention of Vidhu Singh of the Asian American Theater Company in San Francisco.

Singh is directing a workshop production of the play as part of the National Queer Arts Festival, Fri.-Sat., June 14-15 at the Jon Sims Center. He says, "In the opening scene, this suave and successful gay designer living in Mumbai has just finished having sex with the working-class security guard of the building that he lives in. There are these authentic, cross-class, sexual moments that are priceless."

As plays go, it's not an unfamiliar theme: take a bunch of people, friends, old lovers, strangers, and throw them into an enclosed setting like a country house, add some skeletons in the closet, and light the fuse. But while the theme and structure might be familiar, the setting is unusual: India. At one level, the Westernized characters, with their cocktail chatter and air-conditioned lives, would not seem out of place at a pool party in West Hollywood. But the issues that are central to their lives epitomize the struggles that many Indians face, balancing a tradition that is all about family and responsibility with a new world that stresses individuality.

"Life in the urban metros here is within a society that is in transition," says Dattani. "While lifestyles have changed, by and large the same emphasis on marriage and overt social behavior remains." So his play has a character who is married to a woman but frequents gay parties because marriage, to him, is a social contract that involved providing for his family, while pleasure is an individual pursuit. Then there are others who have chosen to live a more open gay life, and are looking for a partner to share it with. There is the Indian visiting from the West, where he lives with his white boyfriend. There is a firm lesbian to keep the gay boys in line.

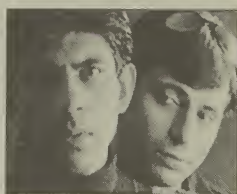
Familiar demons

Dattani cleverly avoids passing judgment on different people's different choices. But as their lives unravel, it becomes obvious that through all the jokes, the campiness, the laughter and cocktails, they are still grappling with familiar demons: marriage, loneliness, sex and obligations.

Not all the characters are gay. Dattani prefers to call them "people who can no longer live their lives under unspoken contracts of silence." Breaking the silence

around such taboo topics is uncomfortable, but it is happening more and more in places like India, especially in its cities, as Internet and cable TV penetrate ever deeper. For the upcoming film version of *Muggy Night*, Dattani changed the title to *Mango Souffle*, a *Metrosexual Love Story*. To him, it's really a metropolitan story. "In metros, there is a growing awareness of the hidden spaces of sexual expression. The problem is now that sexual expression needs romantic expression and overt social acceptance," he says.

For the film version, Dattani moved the action from muggy Mumbai to a farmhouse with a mango grove in Bangalore, often called the Silicon Valley of India because of its high-tech glitz. He assembled a cast of bright young talent from India's stage and screen world. If any of them had qualms about playing gay characters, Dattani is not aware of it.



For the film version, Dattani changed the title to *Mango Souffle*, a *Metrosexual Love Story*.

"The only time I had a problem was when one actor was so keen to try out for the more flamboyant gay characters that he was unhappy to try out for a more sober, non-gay part!"

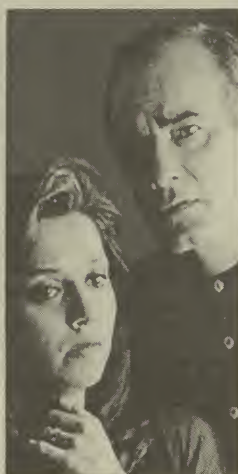
Is this in some ways a signifier of changing attitudes towards gays in India? After all, this is the place where Deepa Mehta's *Fire*, about a lesbian relationship in Delhi, provoked debates in Parliament and mobs attacking the

aters. Dattani thinks men in general find "female-to-female relationships more threatening." Also, the controversy around *Fire* had religious overtones.

He jokes that when *Muggy Night* was staged, if the fundamentalists and conservatives had unleashed their wrath on it, it might have got some extra publicity.

The film of *Mango Souffle* will be doing the film festival circuit shortly, but meanwhile, audiences in San Francisco can get a taste of it, thanks to Vidhu Singh. She is thrilled to bring it to life because "I felt I knew the characters in the play, and just loved it for what it was, a celebration of gay life in India." ▼

A *Muggy Night in Mumbai* plays June 14-15, 8 p.m. at the Jon Sims Center for Arts, 1519 Mission St. Tickets are \$8-\$15. Reservations, call (415) 865-5611.



Mango Souffle is coming soon to the film festival circuit.

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Joe Goode Performance Group: 'Chisel-chested backdrops, jumping in and out of mini-roles, dancing valiantly.'

Joe Goode

Arts cover

whose main company is still chamber-sized. With this many bodies, he was able to create excitement in a new way, with rolling waves of movement, a scale and density that added an emotional wallop to the work.

Ready for their close-ups

Where Goode easily beats Morris is in his theatrical genre-bending. Morris dancers are always dancers (even at their most hilarious, in *The Hard Nut*), while Goode's performers have close-ups — and lines, songs and stories based, in some cases, on their own issues and lives. Elizabeth Burritt gets to go way over the top, and she's good at it, a dancing Lily Tomlin, while Marit Brook-Kothlow has a subtler style of characterization that brings a nice contrast to Burritt's wild theatrics. Goode himself is always droll, acts the old man before his time, and has quite a beautiful singing voice.

The men in the company, Felipe Barreto-Cabello, Marc Morozumi and Vong Phrommla, are accom-

plished, expressive dancers, but tend to fit a more neutral territory dramatically, which is common in dancers, who are trained to imitate and to blend, to be bodies, not characters. Still, each manages very well to serve as a chisel-chested backdrop, jumping in and out of mini-roles, and dancing valiantly.

Les Miz, or for that matter, to *Okla-homa*. His unique blend of video, scenic elements and imagery works in subtler, more affecting ways that the big boys could learn from.

In America, we cynically wait for success to arrive and spoil something this original and good.

Goode is able to pull off a totally original form: a singing, dancing, acting production that works on its own, musical theatre with no resemblance to 'Les Miz.'

At the heart of Goode's work is story, and the playful and poetic narrative Goode brings to the stage is uniquely his. To make yet another East Coast comparison: as an expense-heavy Broadway struggles with multi-million-dollar musical flops, Goode is able to pull off a totally original form: a singing, dancing, acting production that works on its own, musical theatre with no resemblance to

But Goode, by virtue of being in San Francisco, and still pegged a modern dancer, has nearly guaranteed himself oblivion. Artistically, that's a blessing. ▼

Joe Goode Performance Group runs through June 9 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre, 700 Howard St. For tickets, call (415) 978-ARTS.

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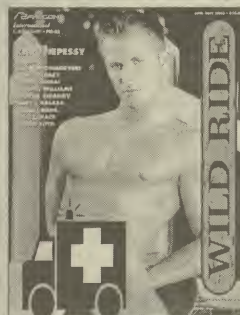
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BOOKS

Col. Mustard in the library, with rope

Gay male sleuths solve homicides in current whodunits

by Tavo Amador

Summer will soon be here, and with it, the traditional demand for light reading. Murder mysteries often fill that niche, and here's a recent, unscientific sampling of available titles.

First, the bad news: the number of whodunits featuring gay male protagonists is shrinking, which is disconcerting. Longtime favorites Michael Nava, R.D. Zimmerman, Mark Richard Zubro, Richard Stevenson, and Michael Craft are still well-represented, but newer writers are few. The good news is that Alyson continues reissuing pioneering works by George Baxt, Nathan Aldyne, and Joseph Hansen, so today's readers can get a feel for how far the genre has progressed. The other bit of good news is that St. Martin's retains its commitment to gay-themed mysteries.

Aldyne's novels, set in the 1980s, feature gay bar owner Daniel Valentine and his best pal, Clarissa Lovelace — an early version of *Will & Grace*. Set in Boston and Provincetown, the stories are as colorful as their titles: *Cobalt, Slate, and Canary*. All are available in quality paperbacks from Alyson (\$16.95). The same publisher has reissued Hansen's landmark Dave Brandstetter mysteries, including *Death Claims* and *Fadeout* (\$12.95-\$16.95), which feature the macho, openly gay insurance investigator in a Chandleresque Southern California. Hansen's writing is vivid, and Brandstetter a most appealing character.

The only Baxt title on shelves was *A Queer Kind of Death* (Alyson, \$10), featuring New York Detective Pharaoh Love, who is gay and African-American. This pioneering work (first published in 1966) involves the death of a male model/hustler. Baxt also wrote amusing mysteries featuring Tallulah Bankhead, Bette Davis, Dorothy Parker, and Mae West as protagonists, which may be available through online bookstores.

Michael Nava's haunting series features Henry Rios, a gay Native American attorney. Alyson has

reissued his first title, *Golden Boy* (\$16.95), which is highly recommended. His newest is *Rag & Bone* (Putnam, \$24.95). Michael Craft's Mark Manning mysteries, *Flight Dreams*, *Night Games*, *Eye Contact*, *Body Language* (all Kensington), and *Boy Toy* (St. Martin's, \$13.95) are still available, but his latest, *Desert Rose* (St. Martin's, \$24.95) does not feature the Wisconsin journalist/newspaper publisher and his lover, architect Neil Waite. Rather, it is set in Palm Springs and has a woman stage director as the lead character. The next Mark Manning mystery is due in July.

St. Martin's has also kept Grant

vate detective Don Strachey. In *Strachey's Follies* (\$11.95), he and his lover Timmy and their friend Maynard are in Washington, DC, to view the AIDS Quilt, when they notice a panel for a friend who is very much alive. Maynard is then found dead, and Strachey and Timmy must find out why and who did it.

Sarah Caudwell's British mysteries involve legal professionals headed by Hilary Tamar, whose gender is never specified. Her debut novel, *Thus Was Adonis Murdered*, centers around a homosexual relationship, and has wonderful London and Venice settings. Subsequent entries include

Saylor knows his Ancient Rome, and his mystery novels are always erotic and very atmospheric.

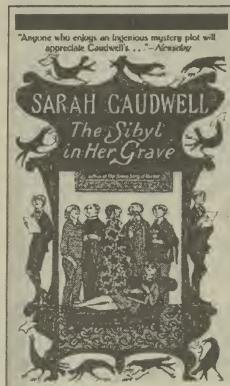
Michaels' amusing but improbable mysteries starring gay Boston hairdresser Stan Kravchick on the shelves. *A Body To Die For*, *Dead as a Doornail*, *Love You to Death*, and *Time To Check Out* are perfect reading while flying to that warm resort (\$9.95-\$11.95).

R.D. Zimmerman's mysteries star journalist Todd Mills and his partner, Minneapolis detective Steve Rawlins. In *Outburst*, they investigate the death of a young gay cop. In *Hostage*, Mills is scheduled to interview a rabid homophobic congressman, but the politician is kidnapped by AIDS sufferers. (Both from Delta, \$11.95.) Mark Richard Zubro has two series published by St. Martin's. *One Dead Drag Queen*, *Are You Nuts?*, and *Why Isn't Becky Twitchell Dead?* feature high school teacher Tom Mason and his lover, professional baseball player Scott Carpenter. His other gay hero, Chicago detective Paul Turner, learns that *The Truth Can Get You Killed* when a conservative homophobic judge is found dead outside a gay nightclub (\$10.95-\$12.95).

St. Martin's also publishes Richard Stevenson's series featuring Albany, New York openly gay pri-

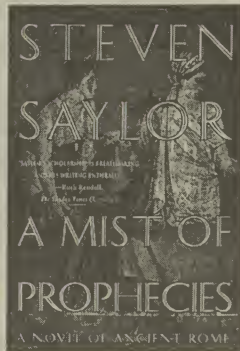
The Sirens Sang of Murder, *The Shortest Way to Hades*, and her last (she died a couple of years ago), *The Sibyl in her Grave*. Perfect for readers who enjoy an intellectual challenge and elegant, witty dialogue. All are from Dell, at \$5.99.

Fine historical mysteries include Steven Saylor's Ancient Rome series featuring Giordano the Finder. Saylor knows the period, and his novels are very atmospheric and erotic. Among the best are *Roman Blood* and *The Venus Throw* (St. Martin's, \$5.99-\$6.99).



A Mist of Prophecies is just out (\$24.95). Further back in time, Lauren Haney's dazzling stories set in Egypt during the reign of the female Pharaoh Hatshepsut feature Bak and his Medjays (local policemen). In *The Right Hand of Ammon*, *A Face Turned Backwards*, *A Vile Justice*, *A Curse of Silence*, and *A Place of Darkness*, Haney makes you feel the heat of the desert, and provides plenty of action-packed conflict. (Avon, \$5.99-\$6.50)

Readers who enjoy art and antiques should grab Ian Pears' mysteries featuring Rome-based Englishman Jonathan Argyll and art-theft investigator Flavia di Stefano. *The Immaculate Deception*,



The Bernini Bust, *Giotto's Hand*, *The Titian Committee*, *The Raphael Affair*, and *Death and Restoration* are funny and informative. (Pocket Books, \$7.99) Pears' historical mystery, *An Instance of the Fingerpost*, however, is not nearly as successful.

Lyn Hamilton's heroine, Lara McClintock, is a Toronto-based antiques dealer who finds herself involved in murders set in exotic places. Although Hamilton's plotting is not a strength, ambience is. Having been to Malta, the Yucatan, and Peru, I can attest to her accurate rendering of those locales in *The Maltese Goddess*, *The Xibalba Murders*, and *The Moche Warrior*. Her latest is *The African Quest*. All from Berkeley Prime Crime, \$6.50.

Happy poolside reading. ▼



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Leather ups and downs

The best and worst of IML 2002

by Mister Marcus

If you didn't make it to Chicago over Memorial Day Weekend, you missed the biggest leather gathering anywhere outside of Folsom Street Fair weekend. Thousands of leather people and bears turned up in the Windy City, all hell-bent on having a good time. Some of the incidents that happened were unbelievably funny.

New IML Stephen Weber made the happiest man in leather by winning the title, but his no less hunky domestic partner, Blaine, is just as happy. For your guidance and information, the term "Sash Widow" is dead, kaput, done. The new appellation for the husbands/wives of titleholders is now "Soccer Mom." So Blaine is the first Soccer Mom of the year. He's a sought-after disc jockey as well, and a star in his own right.

The leather faithful started celebrating Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's 60th birthday in Chicago over IML weekend, and had you been in the gigantic atrium of the Hyatt Chicago last week, you would have seen one table in the bar area (overlooking the whole lobby) with a horde of Mama's Boys gathered around six gigantic martini glasses containing exotic cocktails (umbrellas and all) and a dozen sipping straws. I understand over \$250 was spent just on that one celebration — and that was just that weekend!

One dude left his wallet — containing \$800 in cash — on a table in the lobby, and a half-hour later discovered it was missing. Had this been any place else, he would have been out of luck. Fortunately, when he ran back to the table, it was just laying where he'd left it. Money intact! That just goes to show leather people are honest and trustworthy.

They are also horny, and of course there were several weekend "marriages," the most notable being one between a former title holder from Dallas, Texas and a current one from Portland, Oregon. At my deadline, it was a toss-up as to which one would move to the other's city for marital bliss, but already there are demands for the "pick of the litter." So here's best regards to newlyweds Dan and Rob!

And know that no one passed out because of not eating before, during, or after the contest. Never mind that contestants did not make the top 20. The contestants are okay with it. All others do not



No longer a sash widow: A beaming IML 2002 Stephen Weber poses with his significant other (i.e. "soccer mom") Blaine following his victory in Chicago.

count!

They're celebrating with a huge victory party for IML Stephen Weber at the Dallas Eagle tonight (Thursday, May 6), as well they should. After all, the last time anyone from Texas won this title was in 1983 when Colt Thomas captured the gold ring and he was from the Galveston/Houston area. So it's been a Texas drought for almost 20 years!

Dark shadow

The only pall over the IML weekend was cast by the death of a leather man due to a drug overdose. The tragedy points out once more that we should all be extremely vigilant when attending major events, leather or otherwise. IML, Inc. has long been cognizant of this malaise in the leather community. There are clean and sober outlets each year at IML. And all you "do-gooders" can shut up. It was okay when you were doing it, wasn't it?

After all, we do not want the leather nation to be in the position the cha-cha circuit party boys now face. Major hotel chains are beginning to refuse hosting the circuit dance parties because of drug use. It's bad enough that right wing elements are harassing hotels for hosting gay events without drug usage adding to their argument(s).

Hello? This is a leather contest!

As for the IML competition, it is a wonder some guys even make it to the IML level. Clearly, someone is not doing his or her men-

toring or homework. To show up at a leather competition for prejudging interviews in a baggy pair of denim bib overalls or dirty boots and no leather at all — Hello?

Of course, contestants who come from small hamlets are not able to network with bigger city boys and/or former title winners. The culprit(s) here: the sponsors/producers. Horror tales of contestants staging garage sales, bake sales and other events to get the money to come to Chicago to compete come to light each year. And without mentoring, advice and support, those contestants flounder in face of the competition. Hopefully in the future, contestants will be better prepared. In spite of all this, all came away (as always) with a better understanding and insight of the leather lifestyle.

The idea that IML is turning into "another circuit party" has been out there for years, but the true believers still attend. Leather is not all about BD/SM, so those of you out there who profess to be "major players" should live and let live. You do your thing, we'll do ours. You yourself were considered "new guard" when you were doing your thing, don'tcha know? After all, diversity is the name of the game in spite of some that would try to impose their idea(s) of what Leather is all about.

I'm sorry I couldn't tape record each contestant's response to the question from one of the judges to all the contestants: "What is your opinion of the Guy Baldwin speech at the Leather Leadership Conference earlier this year?" Out of 66 contestants, 45

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, May 7:

Mama's 60th birthday celebration at the Russian River Eagle in Guerneville, preceding the Russian River Sir/Boy competition. Winners advance to Northern California Sir/Boy contests later this year.

Yep, it's the "3 O'Clock Cock Party" at 933 Harrison. Doors open at 1500 before heading home. Come "Blow a few hours with a buddy." Call 777-HEAD.

Saturday, June 8:

Town Meeting for leather people at 1500 today, to help organize the leather contingent in the Pride

Parade at the LGBT Center. If you don't attend, don't bitch later!

Mama's 60th birthday party at the Russian River Eagle, followed by the Russian River Sir/Boy contests.

Cock Party at Castlebar tonight. Doors open from 2100 to 2330. It's another one of those cigar/dungeon parties. For details: www.castlebar.com/cock.

Tuesday, June 11:

Wanna get tied up? Bondage Buddies meets at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open 2000-2300; \$10 fee; fetish wearers get the most action. For info, call 777-HEAD.

Fruit loops

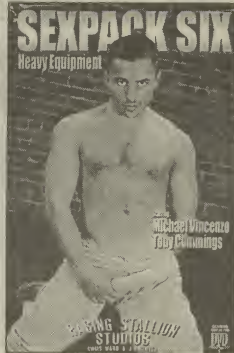
by John F. Karr

The violence of Raging Stallion's *Gayboy Gang Bang* has made it their biggest hit ever. It's been applauded in every journal but this, with one reviewer even praising it as the most erotic movie of the year. Well, the violation of its rape substitutes for erotic entertainment certainly deserves the title pornography. In its wake, it was nice to retreat to the relative safety of the company's *Sexpack* series, in which they reinterpret the traditional short "loops" form in their own rough house style.

Slipping in before *Sexpacks* 6 and 7, however, is the company's *Cops Gone Bad*, which in three scenes expertly mines a vein of role-playing and physical as well as verbal abuse that plants the action clearly in the realm of porn fantasy, while still being impressively played for maximum effect. So, if you like men in uniform misusing their authority to dominate their resistant captives, you'll find this a well-executed classic. The script takes care to cleverly turn the tables on the standard verbal abuse that I'd otherwise resent,

where everybody's "a fucking fag-got," or "a fucking queer." The opening is especially good, with Chris Steele as a ranger arresting trespassing jogger Michael Soldier, who sneers at Steele, "What are you, some kind of queer cop?" Well, duh. In this movie, Steele's glad to cop to queerness. The same is true when CHP Officer Michael Brandon at first quietly and then suggestively interrogates Sky Dawson; who asks, "Are you a good cop turned fag cop?" He gets a simple answer: "Yeah." Seems Dawson's been arrested only because Officer Brandon covets his ass. And gets it, inserting much of his nightstick and all of his buttslamming boy-poker. The well-played set-ups are nearly as long as the sex that follows, which those who like this genre will like.

I'd be hard-pressed to choose between *Sexpack* 6, the generically-titled but not generically-played *Heavy Equipment*; and *Sex-*



pack 7, the aptly titled *Pigs in Heaven*. I veer toward #6, with the tight focus and more artsy visual set-ups demanded by the four scenes of its indoor studio shoot. The uncluttered setting of Raging Stallion's well-known red-brick studio, and the absence of dialogue except for spontaneous sex talk, means there's no distraction from the action, which is viewed in strikingly composed long shots that yield to explicit close-ups. The opening especially abounds in director Chris Ward's handsomely crafted visuals: porn can be artistic. Then the Michaels Brandon and Soldier are seen in a leatherfuck which features an eye-opening insertion followed by a typically frenetic Brandon fuck that elicits a gusher orgasm from Soldier. There's an extended dildo solo for that master of length and width, Mark Everett, and then Brandon heads up a three-way finale. This guy's dick is an act of terrorism, and Ryan Lexington heroically takes savage thrusts at all orifices.

Boy crush
Pigs in Heaven (*Sexpack* 7) mixes two gorgeously-filmed outdoor scenes with two in the studio, adding to regulars Brandon, Soldier and Donovan the low-key butch of Buck Phillips, sexslut Rik Jammer, and Aaron Tanner, a slender young bleached blonde



whose asshole sings a sweet song of succulence. Oh, masterly Max Grand grinds some of the boys down a bit, too. Also new are Sam Dixon with Eric Michaels, a tasty young man who not only lacks pubic hair, but who likes his balls crushed and his nipples worked roughly. When he invites Dixon's whisker-burn on his cockhead, Sam obliges. Ouch. Then there's a rustic scene in a redwood forest, with birds chirping and Western guitars twanging. But we're dealing with Mr. Soldier and pigbottom Jammer here, so after some sweet make-out, the boys dispel the morning mist with some heated cocksucking and prime-time ass-plowing. I certainly enjoy Mr. Jammer, whose nipples are nearly as long as his surprisingly long dong, and whose baby butt needs to be broken like a bronco. With asshole opening wide as a clam at cocktail time, he gets some extra-deep rimming that makes Soldier shoot for the sky.

The finale's title, *Pigs in Heaven*, certainly gets things right, even though the four pigs (Phillip, Soldier, Donovan and Max Grand) are actually back in the red-brick studio. But for all the sloppy face-sitting, cock-slurping, and strong fucking that's going on in the various jumbles of bodies, you know it feels like heaven. Soldier supplies another soaring cum shoot, which is caught, along with all the others, by a second camera in delectable slo-mo. New editor Brian Hastings shows off a bit too much at first, but then solidly delivers the see-it-all videography of Russell Pachman. ▼

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Karnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

disagreed with the content of that speech. Rebellion of the slaves?

Plans are already underway for IML 2003 — the 25th anniversary — and the host hotel next year will be the Palmer House.

Birthday Mama

Last Sunday, June 2, hordes of people squeezed into Daddy's Bar to help Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt celebrate her 60th birthday. Everyone running for Empress de San Francisco next year flounced about with pantomime numbers in tribute to the Mama of us All. But the heavy hitters sang live, including the most fabulous of all, Sheba. There were speeches, accolades from Supervisor Mark Leno and the Mayor's Office, country-western singers, titleholders, and people from Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta and even Milpitas. It was all a benefit for Positive Resources Center, and it continues this weekend up at the Russian River. Happy Birthday, Mama! You are the greatest!



Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt (center) celebrated her 60th birthday with a gigantic party at Daddy's Bar last Sunday, June 2. She was accompanied by two of her "boys" Dale DelMastro ("Mama's 6-pack", left) and Omar Moseley ("Mama's Vampire").

Onward

With IML over, now International Sir/Boy (formerly Drummer) looms on the horizon, and already a half dozen IML 2003 contestants are in place, with more on the way. So until then, there's a plethora of leather events headed your way including Mr. Lure 2003, Folsom Street East,

Leather Pride Night in NY, IMLs, Ms. World Leather, International Sir/Boy and more. If you have the bucks and the stamina, get there. It's going to be a hot summer in 2003 and it's not all about the temperature! Have a great weekend and if you want more news about leather, check out www.L LeatherPage.com! ▼

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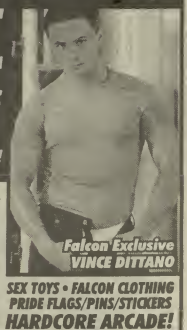
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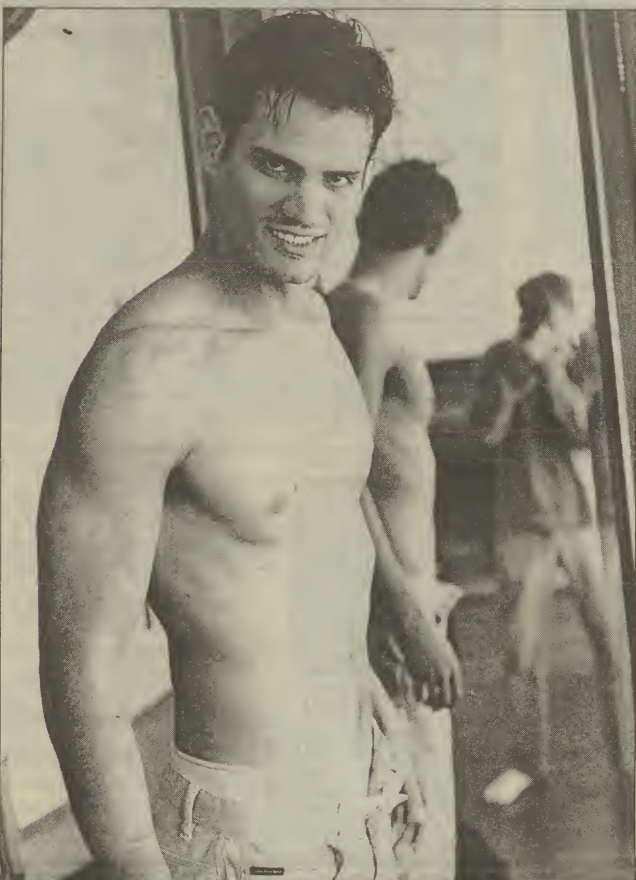
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PARTING GLANCES

The Last Tuesday Sucks, You Said
You wanted to wake up with me in your bed. Ok- Let's do it! ☎ 71801

Powerhouse Fri 5/17 You Fucked Me, then you sucked me off... Finally we talked for a while. I enjoyed your attitude, as well as the sex. How about more of both? ☎ 71800

Flying Pig Hood Orna
101 near San Jose, you gray hair & beard. Daddy type. I would like to have dinner with you. Please call. ☎ 71781

Latin Big Arms, Bike 5-12-02 1:30pm
Looking for Latin man who was riding a bike with s/p hair and huge arms on Mothers Day, Sunday 1:30pm on tenth and Mission. Me bid gray vest, red shirt holding pink paper. ☎ 71782

SFO U: Green P/Up Me: Red Honda
Thursday May 9th. Hey handsome, we were both heading 101 south, got off at SFO. You took inside lane, I took outside. Wanted to give you my #. Bill ☎ 71783

101 North, 9/16 Mercedes SUV
You: driving dk SUV with license "Rix". Me: Asian in black volvo. Lost you at 101/280 interchange. Would like to meet you. Interested? Call me. ☎ 71799

Million 2-One Chance
Meeting on phone line. 5/13-14 SF Hotel pleasant surprise for both of us. You Sid? Berkeley 1/4 Phillipino 30. Me Latin 35 great touch offered your # I said "call me" ment it. ☎ 71798

Left Leg At Tin Pan-5/23
Apology: Couldn't keep eyes of your smile; too lame to drop my card into your boot. Offer: recompense for my manners. Healing hands hoping to hear from you. ☎ 71816

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Cute Young Russian
Is looking for a cute intelligent European, Russian or Italian preferable, to become really close friends to share interests, sex and other pleasures. Be humorous, smart and under 40. ☎ 71784

Qt Lain ISO Hot Daddy
Moved away from SF and would like to come back and have a ltr. I am 5'7", 145#, vgl, bottom. Call me! ☎ 71786

Relationship Oriented Asian
Sweet, romantic, loves good conversation, 30's, 5'10", 143lb, small chest, strong legs (marathoner's body) with nice bubble buns HIV- bottom ISO pleasant looking top man with heart for meaningful relationship. ☎ 71787

Hairy Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", stache, handsome, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, fun, sexy, romantic, poz; you: under 40, single, sane, bottomboy, GWM, eager to please confident daddy stud, live SF. ☎ 71802

Mid Century Artist Seeks Romance
Pro GWM into fine art photograph, writing, travel seeks compatible man to explore our world. Educated & discerning with a wicked sense of humor, grand kisser & cuddler seeks healthy poz partner. ☎ 71803

Attractive Latino 35
Dark, light skin, 5'11", 200, non smoker, non drinker, clean shaven would like to meet Latins or Caucasian under 39. Non smokers only, for friendship or maybe more. ☎ 71805

GLM HIV+ Looking 4 GWM HIV+
Me: 36, 5'08 155 husky look, versatile med. built, tattooed. Nice round butt. You: younger, look slim, smooth, versatile, 5'08 to 5'10, N/D, no heavy drinkers. No fats or fems. Call me. ☎ 71806

New To The City & Ready To Date
35, 5'7", 150#, Asian/Caucasian mixed guy, clean cut look, HIV-, professional, I.S.O. down to earth, genuine, HIV-, healthy, handsome, professional type for casual dates & possible ltr. ☎ 71807

Mulatto Guy
Sexy, educated, intelligent light-skinned creative well-hung, creative, good-looking. Seeking the right guy for a fun and meaningful relationship. ☎ 71817

Virgin Bottom Needs Filled Up
Fulfill my fantasy and break me in. Desire uncut a/w smooth clean shaven. Enter me slowly and gently then give me a hard pounding. Make me cry with pleasure. ☎ 71818

No. California Caretaker
Artist esthetic? I'm looking for a gay versatile caretaker must like cats, plants, wilderness. Interesting for right person to meet longer term ideas & potential. NS/ND. ☎ 71820

One In A Million In San Jose!!
GWM, 35, 5'7", 160#, masculine looking and acting, bottom, non-smoker/ drinker, professional, clean-cut, seeking masculine guy (any race) with same qualities for friendship and more. ☎ 71819

Italian Guys
I'm the guy who knows what the Italian male really wants! ☎ 71821

"Italian"
Looking for a hunky, well built guy. Me sweet good looking 5'11", 170, lite hair, eyes blue. ☎ 71804

18yo Blk Boy Seeks Companion
Someone open minded and friendly and ab fab lovin. 5'10", 145lbs brn eyes brn skin blk hair. ☎ 71785

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Masculine Bottom Needs Horse
Gd/king, masculine dude, 5'10", aub/brn, age 35 discreet, needs horse hung for ongoing action. Into total service, non-nonsense hook ups. HIV+ yeah! ☎ 71741

Your Buddies Think You're Str8
You'd rather watch Ufc than Qaf; rather fist-fight than dance; shave your head, not your pecs; fuck and get fucked hard and rough. Tough, rugged, hairy, skinhead leatherman wants you. ☎ 71742

"Young Asian Butt To Plow!"
Hairless Asian tit hole to fuck I.B. Under 25 and ready to take it. ☎ 71743

Italian Guys I Am Honestly
Looking for Italian guys who are attractive or hung for a relationship to party or just to have fun. ☎ 71745

Hung Hispanic Guys Needed
I'm looking for Hispanic guys who are hung 8 or 9 or 10 inches or more, to party, watch videos, suck j.o., etc. ☎ 71744

Gentle Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO gentle senior men who enjoy lots of sensual, oral attention & affection. Facial hair, non-buffed A+, but all welcome. Threesomes some kink ok but no gay scene or drugs. ☎ 71746

Black/White X-Rated Fun
GWM 49, 5'11" 180 masculine, fit, well hung and very sexual seeks Black males for videos, j.o. and nude beaches. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71747

Oral Sex Buddy
Asian, 50, 5'8", 150#, moustache, clean-cut, goodlooking, HIV-, versatile, oral expert seeks GWM or Latin, HIV- for oral sex on regular basis, hair body A+. ☎ 71788

Discreet, Masculine Guy 4 Hunk
Slenderly muscled, 6'3", fair, attractive 44yo. Wants passionate play with powerfully built, masculine top. Am clean-living, std-free, and want us both to feel great. ☎ 71789

Bear Wants Punk Boy
You are pierced or tattooed, mostly smooth, thin and very oral. I am hairy, big build, 50's 200, 6, in shape and want to touch your hot body. ☎ 71790

Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking toman, 37, 5'11", 170#, work out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71791

Naked On Your Knees
Lean dominant verbal role player 43 needs a lean masculine submissive guy 20 to 40's to follow orders in safe role play fantasy. ☎ 71792

~Asian Paperdoll~
Silky GAM, 5'9", 28w, 20s, long hair, sensuous toes, sweet nipples, cute, in style, enjoy oral sex with endowed single WM. Love to party in costume and good food. ☎ 71809

Oral Expert "9"
Oral master seeks guys who are hung "8" "9" "10" inches or more for oral pleasure deep throat, J.O., 69; watch good videos, etc. I'm hung "9" inches. ☎ 71826

Need Hot White Ass To Fuck
58yr old White top 9" cock 6' 175lbs drk brn hair brn eyes glasses seek hot White bottoms 18-40 who want to be fucked by older men. ☎ 71827

Older Cigar Smoker
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO older, affectionate, regular cigar smoker for holding, kissing, & sensual times. Husky, non-gym, loner-types A+ not into gay lifestyle, drugs or games. ☎ 71810

Seeking Hung W Male
W Male slim hung hairy uc HIV- 55yrs seeks skim W male hung HIV- 40+ for mutual oral 69+ smooth cock & balls. ☎ 71811

Italian Guys Wanted!
I'm looking for Italian men who are good looking, hung or just plain average Italian guys for fun, good times party, J.O., watch videos, sucking, etc. ☎ 71822

Dirty Old Man Needs Someone Bad!
Are you bad?? Trainees or wannabees may be considered. G.W. masc., seeks G.M. masc. submissive. ☎ 71823

"Greek Top Wanted"
W/M 40, need a good butt busting by very horny men any age race, weight big bear a plus. ☎ 71808

"Fuck Me Deep N Hard"
Hot n horny Asian ISO horny top guys for fun and more on a regular basis. Let's play and do it right. ☎ 71824

Free BJ/Rim-Santa Cruz County
Lay back/ receive only! all races welcome. Cleanliness/ slender body a must! You be 18-30. Call TJ anytime of day or night. ☎ 71825

Shut Up And Ride
WM 37 5'10" 200lb. blond/blk muscle guy wants good looking masculine men to fuck. Call anytime. ☎ 71828

Farang Bottom Seeks Thai Top
Sawadeekhrap! Caucasian, 5'11", 175#, bear type, shaved head, short brown beard, talented ass, seeking Thai top man for sex and friendship. Please call- Khap Khun mah Khrap! ☎ 71829

Hung Guys Wanted!
I am looking for guys who are hung 9-inches or more to get together party, watch videos, kick back, suck, 69, and have a fun time. ☎ 71830

FETISHES

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You order, I obey, you sex, I don't, you feed, I drink. Am 59+ healthy + slim + bottom. Phone- ☎ 71793

Pig Daddy
Raunchy cigar smoking leather pig. 45, 5'10", 165. Crew cut ltr for pig boys/cubs for ranch play, leather sex. Any age/race. Can sub for right boy/WB ☎ 71794

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Fit solid Oakland WM 55 5'8" 170# seeks sub for bdsm and oral servitude. Activities, limits arranged for mutual satisfaction. Clean, no drugs. ☎ 71795

Man W/ Toe-Ring Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gd/king East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 71796

Senior Gentleman Is Obedient..
Seeks dominant man to submit to. Experienced, kinky by request, service. Please be demanding. Upper Half SF. ☎ 71797

Your Throat Is My Nightcap
48 year old hung Oakland-area man needs a mature oral expert to drain me at 11p.m. Be available, honest, easy to reach and either clean shaven or moustache only. ☎ 71812

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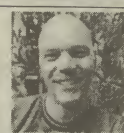
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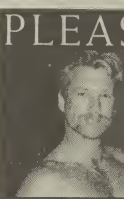
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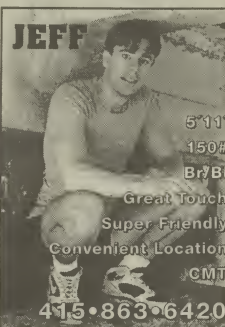
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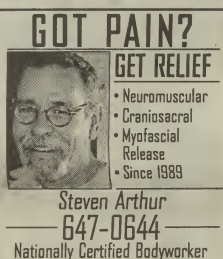
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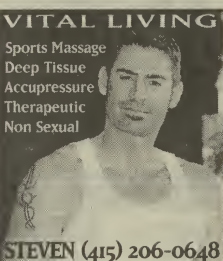
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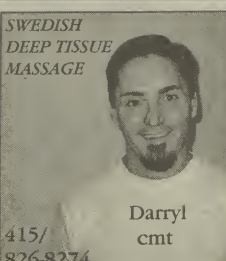
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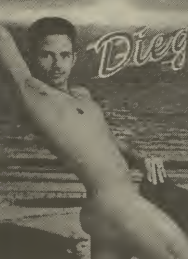
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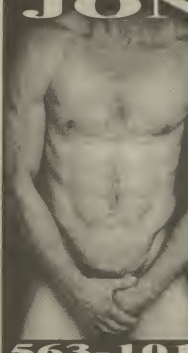
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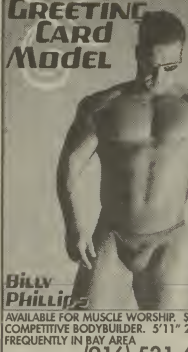
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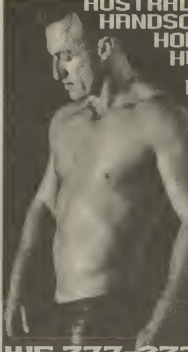
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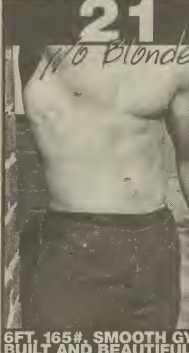
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